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Remembering Nikolai

Ilya Rappaport hugs wounded IDF soldier Noam Leist at a tree-planting ceremony in memory of Rappaport's son Nikolai yesterday in the Ben-Shemen Forest. Leist came to the ceremony from the hospital, where he is recovering from wounds he received in the ambush that killed Nikolai. (Flash 90)

Syria-Lebanon summit to probe pullback offer

Hizbullah hints willingness to give way to Lebanese troops

DAVID RUDGE, JAY BUSHINSKY, and news agencies

Lebanese government leaders have been summoned to Damascus to take part in a mini-summit this week, apparently as part of an intensive Syrian diplomatic effort to head off Israel's proposal to withdraw from the security zone under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Officially, the meeting has been called for Syria and Lebanon to coordinate their positions on the eve of upcoming visits to the region by European Union leaders and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

There has been speculation, however, that Syrian President Hafez Assad is concerned about reports that Israel and Lebanon have opened a secret channel of communications over the 425 initiative.

Assad's decision to summon Lebanese leaders to Damascus was seen by Israeli analysts yesterday as proof that the Israeli proposal had taken him by surprise.

According to several reports, Assad has been acting in a way that indicates he is under pressure because of the Israeli initiative, which also calls for Lebanon to ensure security arrangements along the northern border and security for the South Lebanese Army in the event of an IDF pullout.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara led a top-level delegation to Beirut last week that met with Lebanese leaders, including President Elias Hrawi and Foreign Minister Farez Bouez.

Later, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri met in Damascus with Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam. The two rejected Israel's proposal, saying they would not accept anything less than Israel's unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

Since then, Syria has launched a counter-initiative calling for all matters relating to peace in the Middle East to be handled by the UN Security Council, because of the latter's success in dealing with the recent crisis in Iraq.

The aim of the Syrian meeting, apparently, is to try and put pressure on Israel, via the international community, to honor all UN Security Council resolutions, including those relating to the Golan Heights.

Lebanese figure proposes an independent south, Page 2

Syria is pressing for the UN to use the same kind of assertiveness with Israel that it used in dealing with Iraq. The main aim, however, according to Israeli analysts, is to divert attention from Israel's proposal and prevent a split in the Lebanon-Syria track.

The Lebanese leftist daily *As-Safir* reported yesterday that all of Lebanon's leaders, including Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, had been invited to the summit.

Former ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich, an expert on Syria, described Assad's action as "a show of strength."

The Tel Aviv University expert said Assad's advantage always has been his ability to do things like this. He contended that Assad has decided to take this action because he does not like the Israeli initiative and wants to "nip it in the bud."

"He is in a serious dilemma," said Reuven Merhav, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry who specializes in Middle Eastern affairs. "If the Lebanese exert pressure on him to let them accept Israel's offer he will be in great difficulty."

Merhav, who set up Israel's quasi-embasssy in Beirut during the 1982 Lebanon War, said he assumed that the Lebanese may tell Assad that "Now we have a chance: We are the ones who fought against the Israelis in the south and therefore should be able to decide whether to go for this deal."

Merhav pointed out that Assad is a signatory to the 1989 Taif Agreement on the basis of which Israel was supposed to withdraw from southern Lebanon and the Lebanese authorities were to have reasserted their authority there.

He contended that the most realistic arrangement for both sides – Israel and Lebanon – would be one based on the 1949 armistice agreement, which, in his opinion, should be reconstituted in toto.

A senior Israeli official who deals with the current situation in southern Lebanon contended that Assad "simply does not know how to relate to our proposal." He said the government made an offer that the Lebanese are finding hard to refuse.

"Actually, the issue is between us and the Lebanese," he went on. "It is not really his business," he said, referring to Assad.

The current diplomatic standoff was described by him as "the beginning of a process" in which the contending parties are seeking ways to come to terms.

The idea that the Israeli proposal created a new framework for a potential solution also was expressed by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur.

See SUMMIT, Page 2

Levine: Hizbullah seeking to down IAF aircraft

By DAVID RUDGE

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine said yesterday that Hizbullah gunmen have for some time been trying to shoot down IAF planes with with Soviet-made Strella shoulder-held missiles and other weapons.

"The terrorists have Strella and other anti-aircraft missiles. ... They view helicopters and [other] aircraft as qualitative targets which would bring them a lot of prestige if they could hit them," Levine told reporters in the North.

"In the same way that we cannot remove our infantry, tank crews and artillery, the IAF also continues to act under these threats," said Levine.

The anti-aircraft Strella uses an infra-red guidance system which zeroes in on the heat of aircraft engines. It is considered a relatively antiquated but efficient missile system.

The UNIFIL spokesman said that the peacekeepers had been aware of the presence and use of such missiles in south Lebanon for the past four years.

He noted that militiamen were also using more anti-aircraft weapons lately, including 23-mm. cannons.

Last week gunmen fired dozens of anti-aircraft rounds at IAF helicopter gunships that were apparently brought in to hunt for a Hizbullah squad in the central sector of the security zone. According to reports from Lebanon, no IAF helicopters were hit.

Levine spoke to reporters at the annual memorial ceremony at Tel Hai marking the death of Yosef Trumpeldor and seven comrades in defense of the region 78 years ago.

Balance of payment deficit shrank 33% in '97

By DAVID HARRIS

The current-account deficit narrowed last year to $3.556 billion from $5.348b. at the end of 1996 – a decline of 33.51 percent, according to figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The current account is the difference between expenditures on imports and income from exports together with unilateral transfers.

The reduction in the deficit came about as the result of an increase in exports of goods and services of $1.5b., a $0.3b. rise in receipts from unilateral transfers and from relatively steady spending on imports of goods and services.

The final quarter of 1997 produced a $164 million surplus in the balance of payments, the first surplus since the equivalent three months in 1996 (when it was $38m.).

At the same time, Israel's foreign debt increased $5.6b., while overall assets abroad rose $7b.

During 1997, foreigners invested $3.4b. here, compared to $2.4b. in the previous year. Israelis invested $0.8b. overseas last year, up $0.1b. on the 1996 figure.

The overall shrinking of the current-account deficit is yet further evidence of an economic slowdown, as it indicates that consumption is down.

This afternoon, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and State Budget Director David Milgrom will release details of initial plans to put the economy on the road to recovery in 1999. They are expected to announce plans for increased competition and a series of other reforms, which they believe will lead to renewed economic activity.

Treasury officials are speaking of growth reaching less than 2% this year, its lowest level this decade.

In precedent-setting Supreme Court ruling

Forced sexually intended behavior is harassment

By BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

Sexual harassment is any behavior with sexual connotations which is forced by one person on another against the latter's will, the Supreme Court declared yesterday in a precedent-setting ruling.

The definition of sexual harassment at a workplace or place of learning was handed down in a decision which overturned an acquittal of Zohar Ben-Asher, a teacher at Seminar Hakibbutzim in Tel Aviv, for embracing and caressing a student against her will.

Court President Aharon Barak, and Justices Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Strassberg-Cohen, issued a 44-page ruling in answer to an appeal by the state against Ben-Asher's acquittal of harassment charges by a civil servants' disciplinary court.

The student testified that Ben-Asher had touched her against her will several times and that she had moved away. He suggested that she go out with him and come over to his house. She told him she had a boyfriend and studied late, but he repeated his behavior, the student said. Her version was backed up by testimony from friends.

Ben-Asher said he believed in education which encouraged close – even physical – contact between teachers and students.

"[This] behavior prevented her from studying quietly like any other student," the justice found. "It is especially serious because we are dealing with the behavior of a teacher towards a student."

Ben-Asher's behavior could be considered harassment because he imposed his will on the student against her will. His invitation to his home went beyond any accepted educational method, the court added, noting free will is required in sexual relations for them not to be considered harassment.

"Sexual harassment can come in the form of words or deeds that have sexual connotations when the goal is to get sexual pleasure – from intercourse or from embracing or touching.... There is also sexual harassment that is intended to make a workplace unbearable so that a worker will have to leave," the court wrote. "It is especially pernicious when it comes from a person who is in a higher position and is aimed at someone who is subordinate."



(Reuters)

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd

King Fahd in critical condition

DUBAI (AP) – Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was in critical condition yesterday and might have to undergo surgery after being hospitalized in Riyadh with a gall bladder infection, hospital officials said.

An American medical team was monitoring the condition of Fahd, who is in his mid-70s, and was expected to decide last night whether to remove his gall bladder, said the officials. The King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the Saudi capital Riyadh stopped all visits and calls and barred relatives and family members from seeing the monarch.

Performing surgery to remove Fahd's gall bladder was risky and complications could ensue due to his frail health, the officials said.

Fahd's health has been the source of much speculation since he suffered a stroke in November 1995 and temporarily handed the reigns over to Crown Prince Abdullah a couple of months later. *Fahd has ruled since his brother* Khaled's death in 1982.

MK panel fails to decide on relocating Goldstein grave

By LIAT COLLINS

The grave of Baruch Goldstein, the doctor who murdered 29 Moslem worshipers in Hebron's Machpela Cave four years ago, will remain for now in its controversial Kiryat Arba location, despite a heated Knesset Interior Committee debate on the subject yesterday.

The committee is expected to hold another meeting on the matter next week with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

The committee is discussing two versions of a bill by Meretz MK Ran Cohen: one mandates moving the grave to a cemetery and one demands that all the signs of a memorial be removed from gravesite.

Rubinstein apparently believes that moving the memorial trappings is a matter for the defense establishment to decide, as Kiryat Arba falls under the jurisdiction of the Civil Administration.

The decision on moving the grave itself, however, is a halachic issue. Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior ruled this week that the grave cannot be moved.

Cohen told the committee that unless the grave itself is moved, the memorial which has sprung up around it will continue to develop.

"The Goldstein memorial is a despicable place, encouraging murders and massacres, and it should be gotten rid of," said Cohen, adding that he has received threats since proposing the legislation against the memorial and grave.

While religious MKs on the committee – Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party), Benny Elon (Moledet) and Shmuel Halpert (United Torah Judaism) – all agreed the memorial trappings should be removed, they said the body cannot be exhumed if rabbinic opinion is that it would be contrary to Halacha.

MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) said the grave and memorial site "are a stain on the state and government."

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

On Sunday the Kiryat Arba Local Council rejected a proposal to transfer Goldstein's remains to another site.

Council member Shimon Ben-Zion said that while he does not condone what Goldstein did, he does not believe that the site has been turned into a shrine.

Ben-Zion said Goldstein's family had refused to move the body, but that he may be able to convince them to remove the memorial effects, such as the lighting and cupboard for holy books.

Peace Now, meanwhile, vowed to continue fighting to have the grave moved elsewhere.

Congressmen to Clinton:

Press Russia on Iran aid

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – Members of the US House and Senate are urging the administration to press Russia to curtail its nuclear and missile assistance to Iran.

Letters from each house of Congress were sent to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore last week, urging that the matter be taken up when Gore holds his semi-annual meeting today with Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Gore and Chernomyrdin are to conduct a day-and-a-half of meetings, and then go to Capitol Hill tomorrow for a luncheon and meetings with lawmakers, at which they are expected to be confronted regarding Russia's cooperation with Iran.

A letter sent by a group of senators to Gore last Friday asked him to pressure Russia to "take real actions that will demonstrate its sincerity in cutting off technology assistance to Teheran."

The letter's sponsors, Patty Murray and Ben Nighthorse Campbell, said they want to see, among other things, Russian President Boris Yeltsin leading a public campaign against "dangerous" transfers and Russia terminating cooperation that benefits Iran's nuclear ambitions, including training Iranian students.

NEWS
in brief

TA chief rabbi dies

Rabbi Haim David Halevy, the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv since 1973, died yesterday at the Herzliya Medical Center, after being hospitalized for several days with heart problems. Halevy, was an Israel Prize winner for Torah literature, and won several other prizes for his work.

Many of his writings dealt with issues of religion and state. A native of Jerusalem, Halevy was ordained by the late Sephardic chief rabbi Ben-Zion Uziel and later served as his private secretary. His funeral is to leave today at 11 from the Ohel Moed Synagogue in Tel Aviv. He will be buried in Jerusalem on Har Hamenuhot. *Itim*

Gov't ministries to be probed on leaks

Israel Radio reported last night that a probe of officials in the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry will begin today following a series of leaks of classified information.

The probe was approved by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in consultation with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein after the Mossad's recent failure in Switzerland was leaked to the news media. In the initial phase, lower-level aides in the Prime Minister's Office will be questioned by General Security Service personnel and deputy directors-general at the ministry will be quizzed simultaneously. Sources said the probe may be extended to top echelon officials. *Jay Bushinsky*

Man charged for stabbing yeshiva student

Police have charged a 29-year-old Arab resident of Jerusalem in the stabbing of yeshiva student Yossi Lepon just after midnight on February 5. Lepon, 17, lost a kidney in emergency surgery following the stabbing.

Police found Fauzi Natchi – based on a composite sketch from Lepon – sitting in jail, where he was serving an 180-day sentence for illegal construction and owing the municipality NIS 40,000 in back taxes. According to the police, the suspect, from the Wadi Joz neighborhood, admitted to the attack and said he acted alone. *Elli Wohlgelernter*

Judge lets 'newlyweds' go to rabbinate

A military judge yesterday ruled that two soldiers who exchanged marriage vows in the hallway of a military court last week could register with the rabbinate.

Meanwhile, a General Staff tribunal deliberated whether to recognize the hurried wedding, which would mean that the male soldier would not have to testify against the female in a drug trial. The soldiers' attorneys, Capt. Noam Shechner and David Sagiv, maintained that the couple has lived together and had plans to marry before the trial.

Prosecutor Capt. Inbal De-Paz argued that the couple didn't have the right to marry while in custody. *Itim*

Police: Jerusalem stabbing probably criminal

Jerusalem police say the stabbing that took place Sunday night in Independence Park probably occurred during a robbery, but have not ruled out the possibility that its cause was nationalistic.

A 20-year-old youth was stabbed in the chest, apparently by three assailants, but police have not yet been able to question the youth, who is recovering in Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem. *Elli Wohlgelernter*

Court to hear Amir's brother's case against Raviv

Opening hearings will be heard in Tel Aviv District Court this morning in the NIS 5 million case of Haggai Amir – brother of Yigal Amir, convicted of assassinating prime minister Yitzhak Rabin – vs. Avishai Raviv, the former General Security Service agent. Amir has accused Raviv of committing perjury, contending that had Raviv admitted he was a GSS employee, Amir could have raised the entrapment defense, according to attorney Nitzana Darshan-Leitner. *Elli Wohlgelernter*

Schroeder plans Israel visit

Gerhard Schroeder, the Social Democrat who hopes to unseat German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in September, announced plans yesterday in Bonn to visit Israel and Lebanon this month. Schroeder, who is premier of Lower Saxony state, is traveling in his capacity as president of the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament where the states are represented.

He will confer with government officials in Jerusalem on March 23, visit the Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem, and also has tentative plans to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. On March 25, Schroeder plans to to meet with government and business leaders in Lebanon. *AP*

UN expected to pass resolution against Israel

The Israeli delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women was bracing for a resolution as early as today in which the Palestinian women are likely to assail Israel for the "severe consequences" of "illegal settlement" and difficult conditions on Palestinian women stemming from the closures of the territories.

The resolution was expected to be harsh "because the peace process is not moving," said Israeli delegation head Masha Lubelsky, a former MK and now an adviser to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani. A draft version of the resolution "reaffirms that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society." *Marilyn Henry*

Israel, Jordan to boost trade

By NINA GILBERT



Jordanian Industry Minister Hani Mulki (left) and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky sign a trade agreement in Amman yesterday.

AMMAN – Israel and Jordan, declaring that the strain in relations caused by the Mashaal Affair has been overcome, held talks yesterday on economic ties and decided on a series of measures aimed at boosting bilateral trade.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky discussed bilateral relations and regional cooperation with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan.

"The difficult period after the Mashaal affair is behind us, and it is time to put relations back on track," Hassan was quoted as saying.

Hassan is to visit Tel Aviv today for talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Hassan is to be accompanied by a delegation of influential businessmen and parliamentarians, including some who have taken a hard line on Israel.

In talks yesterday afternoon between Sharansky and his Jordanian counterpart, Hani Mulki, the two countries decided to extend their bilateral trade agreement, which expires in October, for another year. In the meantime, a joint committee will work towards a free trade agreement and examine ways to eliminate non-tariff barriers. Bilateral trade more than doubled in 1997 to $32 million.

At a news conference after their talks, Mulki and Sharansky signed a letter to the European Union, calling on the bloc to recognize products produced jointly in Irbid and other future qualified industrial zones for the purpose of cumulation of origin, so they can enjoy free-trade status.

Sharansky called on the EU to follow the example of the US, which has given free-trade status to the joint products. The ministers exchanged and signed their countries' ratification of the agreement.

The two ministers also signed a mutual recognition agreement between the two countries' standards institutes. This will enable Jordanian standards laboratories to inspect goods for export to Israel and vice versa, thus easing the export process.

In the meeting with Mulki, attended by a delegation of Israeli trade officials, Israel announced that it has approved $100 million in foreign risk trade insurance for exports to Jordan and investments there by Israeli companies, especially in joint ventures.

Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Corp. director Doron Klausner said the "unusually high sum approved for Jordanian investments is a result of political considerations of the government, which is interested in developing and strengthening economic relations between the two countries."

Late in the afternoon, Sharansky met with King Hussein, who welcomed the extension of the trade agreement and emphasized the importance of economic cooperation. The two also discussed the situation in Iran and Iraq, Sharansky's visit to Russia, and the peace process as it relates to the Palestinians and Syria.

Jordan wants to expand the list of duty-free products allowed into the Palestinian-controlled areas, its principal export market under the trade agreement with Israel. Jordan also aims to get standards approval for the export of its cement, oil, electronic appliances and carpets to Israel. Zohar Peri, director of the Industry and Trade Ministry's Foreign Trade Administration, said, however, that products produced in joint ventures in Jordan would not be allowed to be imported into Israel duty-free.

Jordan's Hassan pledges full support for Palestinians

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Seeking to move the peace process forward, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during a lightning two-hour visit to Ramallah yesterday.

While Hassan pledged Jordan's unflagging support for the Palestinians he told reporters that at his meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv this evening he will demand that Israel implement the signed agreements and redeploy in the West Bank.

"Let me remind you that we expect a large scale redeployment from the West Bank in 1998," he said.

Hassan added that the Jordanians will also demand "the full and precise implementation of the texts that were agreed upon."

Arriving by helicopter, Hassan, accompanied by Jordanian officials and journalists, was greeted by Arafat and PA officials.

Meeting briefly with reporters before Hassan's return to Amman, Arafat said he was encouraged by Hassan's brotherly visit and that he hoped to overcome the obstacles and current deadlock in negotiations.

Arafat said he was sure that Jordan's King Hussein's visit to Washington on March 19 would bring results not only on the Palestinian track but also on the Syrian and Lebanese track.

While demanding that Israel implement the signed accords, Arafat reiterated his call for an Arab summit and demanded that the international community intensify its efforts to move the process forward.

"The accords we signed at the White House are not bilateral accords but were signed by Jordan, Egypt and Norway, the European Union and the two sponsors, Russia and the US, in the presence of Japan. This means that the accords are international and the international community is bound by them and must ensure that the peace process moves forward," he said.

PA negotiator Saeb Erekat charged that Netanyahu was to blame for the current deadlock.

"There is nothing wrong with the peace process or the Oslo accords, but with the practices of Mr. Netanyahu," he said.

Hassan, however, declared "as long as we believe in the rights of all Arabs we will continue to renew ideas, opinions and proposals in order to protect the peace process and ensure its continuance. When we talk about alternatives to peace, we should focus on the full half of the glass and not the empty half and to remember all the achievements made so far."

PA Minister of International Cooperation Nabil Shaath said that Hassan also updated Arafat on his meetings with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon on Sunday and with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday.

Lebanese figure proposes an independent south

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A prominent Lebanese Christian political figure has submitted to the Israeli government a detailed proposal to transform the security zone into a self-governing entity defended by an enlarged local militia to be known as the Free Lebanon Army.

The proposal would require and facilitate the withdrawal of the IDF while signalling to Syria that it should evacuate its 30,000 troops from central and northern Lebanon.

Cabinet members, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, have not yet studied the scheme, which is expected to come up for consideration at a forthcoming cabinet meeting.

The objective is to create a model of genuine Lebanese sovereignty in which there would be no foreign forces and to overcome what is described by the author as the lethargy and pessimism which he detects in the South Lebanon Army as well as in people who live in the security zone.

He calls for the replacement of the SLA's commander, Gen. Antoine Lahad, by "a new leadership characterized by courage, faith in Lebanon's national ideals and the charisma necessary to reactivate SLA troops."

Israeli quarters interested in the proposal contend that the Defense Ministry's coordinator of Lebanese affairs, Uri Lubrani, also should step down if only because "his concepts are out of date."

Also on the Lebanese figure's drawing board is the creation of a new broadcasting infrastructure which would serve the people of southern Lebanon while offering a media alternative to that of Hizbullah and other hostile elements. "It is necessary to establish a regional TV channel funds for which can be obtained from the SLA's coffers and administration of which would be conducted by a special commitee," the proposal states.

Lebanese Christian advocates of the scheme contend that their Shi'ite Muslim country men and women, who are nearly 50 percent of southern Lebanon's population, would go along with it.

Israeli officials who have studied the proposals believe the suggested Lebanese political entity would be the only sector of Lebanon that would be free of Syrian troops.

"This will enable Israel to get out," a senior government aide said. He said there are Lebanese Christians who advocate this scheme.

The official also predicted that the hundreds of thousands of expatriate Lebanese, especially those residing in North and South America, would be "willing to help." He foresaw the possibility that many would volunteer to serve in the newly-reconstituted Free Lebanon Army and that their older relatives would contribute money to the provisional government.

"This would terrify the Syrians if only because the reconstituted security zone would be the only part of Lebanon in which there no longer are any foreign troops," the official said.

PA-Israel talks at US ambassador's residence make little headway

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB and JAY BUSHINSKY

Palestinian and Israeli officials met at US Ambassador Edward Walker's Herzliya residence last night to pursue negotiations over the routing of safe passages through Israel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Following the one hour meeting, Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat rushed off to an emergency meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

Palestinian officials claimed that no progress was made.

Also present at the talks were the head of the Palestinian safe passage committee Brig.Gen. Abdul Al-Razzak Yehiya and PA official Jamil Tarifi who is responsible for the civilian affairs.

Erekat said the Israeli delegation included Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, and Arni Blant, the director general of the Ministry of Internal Security, as well as US Consul General John Herbst. Naveh concurred that little headway was made.

"There are gaps in our respective positions," he said, "and differences of opinion, especially with regard to the northern route and the security aspects."

Yehiya said that no date was set for further discussions.

Erekat said that talks between the subcommittees on the Karni industrial park, the seaport and airport would continue next week.

Naveh said the gaps are narrower on these issues.

"There is a readiness to make progress," he said, "but there are problems."

SUMMIT
Continued from Page 1

"We have to be patient, while we hold to our position, reiterate it and drive our point home," he said.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah hinted there would be a softening of the organization's stance in the aftermath of an IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Asked about Hizbullah's position in the event of a withdrawal, Nasrallah told the French newspaper Le Figaro: "

When the day comes it would only be natural that all the government institutions would be represented in the area: the Lebanese Army is responsible for security and we will not intervene. This point is clear unto itself."

However, in an interview with The Associated Press and APTV, he said that "the Israeli maneuver is doomed to failure."

Nasrallah also said that Israel might use Lebanon's rejection as a "pretext for a specific military action" to impose a settlement..

Meanwhile, after meeting with Shara in Damascus, the EU's Middle East envoy Miguel Moratinos told reporters that "without Syria, it will be difficult to strike an effective and permanent application" of Resolution 425.

European leaders must urge Lebanon to guarantee security and fight terrorism before Israel will pull its troops out of southern Lebanon, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

Mordechai stressed that Israel is prepared to withdraw from Lebanon only if security is assured.

"We have to be clear that we're not going to change our position in the area until we identify that there are real activities to achieve this idea of security," he said, on a one-day visit to the Netherlands.

"I think what is needed is for European countries and leaders to encourage Lebanon to do what they can do with their security forces to fight terrorism, and to control their areas," Mordechai said.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our mother and grandmother

LILLIAN STERMAN

We will meet at the funeral home across from Herzog hospital in Givat Shaul, today, Tuesday, March 10, 1998, at 11:00 a.m.

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A kick by Pik

Singer Tzvika Pik blasts a kick during yesterday's annual soccer match between entertainers and MKs on behalf of underprivileged children at Malha's basketball arena in Jerusalem. MKs Ehud Olmert (center) and Tawfik Khatib were among those participating in the match. Which was won by the entertainers 3–1. (Brian Hendler)

State Comptroller:

Nativ damaged East Europe ties

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Nativ, the once clandestine organization that helped save Jews behind the Iron Curtain, is damaging Israel's ties with former East Bloc countries, since it is competing with the Foreign Ministry and other official bodies while lacking a mandate to do so, according to the secret section of the state comptroller's report on the organization.

The subcommittee on secret services of the Knesset's State Control Committee yesterday held a marathon debate on this part of the report. State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat joined subcommittee members MKs Yossi Katz (Labor) and Uzi Landau (Likud) to hear Nativ head Ya'acov Kedmi respond to charges from the various bodies.

In her report, Ben-Porat also noted that the government had failed to hold a strategic discussion on the future of Nativ. Previous governments had likewise not discussed the organization's place, although there had been several government committees that had examined the relations between Nativ and the Jewish Agency and had attempted to divide their functions in a rational way.

Kedmi has submitted a written response to Ben-Porat's criticism on Sunday to the prime minister, the state comptroller and the subcommittee head. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is due to report to the committee next week.



Miriam Ben-Porat (Isaac Harari)

First to appear before the committee yesterday morning was General Security Service head Ami Ayalon who was accompanied by A., a section head. The two reportedly became involved in a heated debate with Kedmi.

Next to arrive was the deputy head of the Mossad. She, too, reportedly strongly criticized the activities of Nativ as did Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur. Representatives of all three bodies related only to the secret section of the report.

"The impression one gets is that a second foreign ministry [Nativ] is operating here... Nativ's operations are on a political and on a clandestine level and are not acceptable to the Foreign Ministry or the Mossad," one source said later.

"There is a Golem that has grown too big here and which has its own contacts and rules," the source added. "We are in danger of an explosion."

However, the source added, there have not been any serious "explosions" in Israel's ties with other countries as yet.

Later in the day, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg also appeared before the subcommittee. However, he and Kedmi confronted each other over the published section of the report, which talks of duplication between the two bodies and the large-scale waste of resources by Nativ.

Burg reportedly suggested that Nativ's functions vis-a-vis the Jews in the former Soviet bloc be handled by the agency while all aspects dealing with consular affairs be put in the hands of the embassies.

Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky had also remarked earlier that Nativ's clandestine activities should be halted. This is believed to be the view of the Mossad and GSS as well.

"We have not yet heard the prime minister. But after the report and today's sessions, my gut feeling is that no cosmetic treatment can help Nativ," Katz said later.

"It is not possible to reorganize Nativ in its current form and with the present personnel. I believe the solution lies in distributing Nativ's functions among the other existing bodies," he said.

Barak, party secretary try to mend fences

By SARAH HONIG

Labor Chairman Ehud Barak and party Secretary-General Ra'anan Cohen yesterday began negotiations on who will be in ultimate control of the Barak for Prime Minister political action group.

The creation of this ostensibly non-partisan group under the leadership of former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat has sparked a feud between Barak and his hand-picked secretary-general.

Barak wants the committee to operate outside the party framework as essentially an independent political entity run by himself.

This, Barak keeps explaining to Labor higher-ups, is geared at making it possible to recruit support and funds from members of other parties.

Nevertheless Barak recently demanded that Cohen transfer part of Labor's own party funding to help get the association off the ground.

Here Barak met an unexpected snag. After backing Cohen for secretary- general and expecting him to be a docile yes-man, Cohen balked. Cohen argued that setting up an outside framework to field Barak would create a competing entity and could further weaken Labor.

Cohen is already at odds with Barak over Cohen's determination to get the party to retreat from support of holding direct elections for prime minister on the grounds that the system is destroying both large parties.

Yesterday's 45-minute tete-a-tete between Barak and Cohen was geared at finding a compromise on how the association's bill would be footed.

Cohen is reportedly willing to let it have 5% (some NIS 2m.) of the funding Labor gets from public coffers. Barak wants some NIS 4 m of Labor's party funding to go to Lahat's association.

Cohen further wants the association to operate under Labor auspices, making him responsible for its budget and operations. Barak vehemently opposes Cohen's view, arguing that the association must appear to be a volunteer group unconinected with Labor or it would lose its raison d'etre.

Before the meeting, Cohen said that "I must look after the whole party, its interests and its welfare. Barak is only interested in what is good for Barak."

After the meeting Cohen described the talks as "effective and exhaustive. We had swept away our misunderstandings. We will cooperate on all issues."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Bibi's travels

Hebrew press commentators pondered over the purpose of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Europe this week.

Netanyahu's visit "led him to four capitals but has led the peace process no where," ***Ha'aretz*** editorializes, criticizing Netanyahu's rejection of American initiatives as well as European involvement. "As time goes by, the prime minister's political path is slowly being revealed where he gives the impression of political doing with no concrete consequences."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid writes that the visit seemed puzzling from the start and remained so until the very last day. He says that if Netanyahu's intention was to hint to Washington that Israel could "possibly find her luck elsewhere, such empty threats impress no one."

Provocative slips

ΔFormer IDF intelligence chief Shlomo Gazit's comparison of IDF soldiers in knitted kippot with Nazi troops wearing a swastika has caused severe political damage to Labor party leader Ehud Barak, according to ***Ma'ariv***'s Chemi Shalev.

Shalev refers to the proximity of the remark to Barak's comment that if he were a Palestinian he would have joined a terrorist organization. He adds that both Barak and Gazit have surprised the public because of their use of the atypical harshness of their comments.

"Because of Gazit, Barak will have to prove to the public that the Israeli left has not lost a few screws," ***Ha'aretz***'s Avirama Golan writes.

Bamby Sheleg claims in ***Ma'ariv*** that Gazit's comments were meant to stop the appointment of Yaacov Amidror as head of Intelligence. "They were meant to stop a natural process where religious people become an integral part of the Israeli General staff. There is no way to stop their advancement because of the kippa on their heads."

Back in the loop

Recent discussions regarding the acceptance of UN Security Resolutions 425 by the government and attempts to reach an agreement with the Lebanese government to ensure safety along the border, have highlighted Syria's role in implementing such plans.

Writing in ***Yediot Aharonot***, Yossi Olmert states that Syrian President Hafez Assad is angry and worried about negotiations that are not coordinated with him. Olmert states that in light of the fact that a withdrawal from the Golan Heights is not an option being considered by the government, there is a chance to "awaken the Lebanese patriots against the real conquerors: Syria," to make them realize that she is responsible for the stalemate in the withdrawal.

"Lebanon has proved in the past and might also prove in the near future that she is a cemetery for all foreign occupation," Olmert adds.

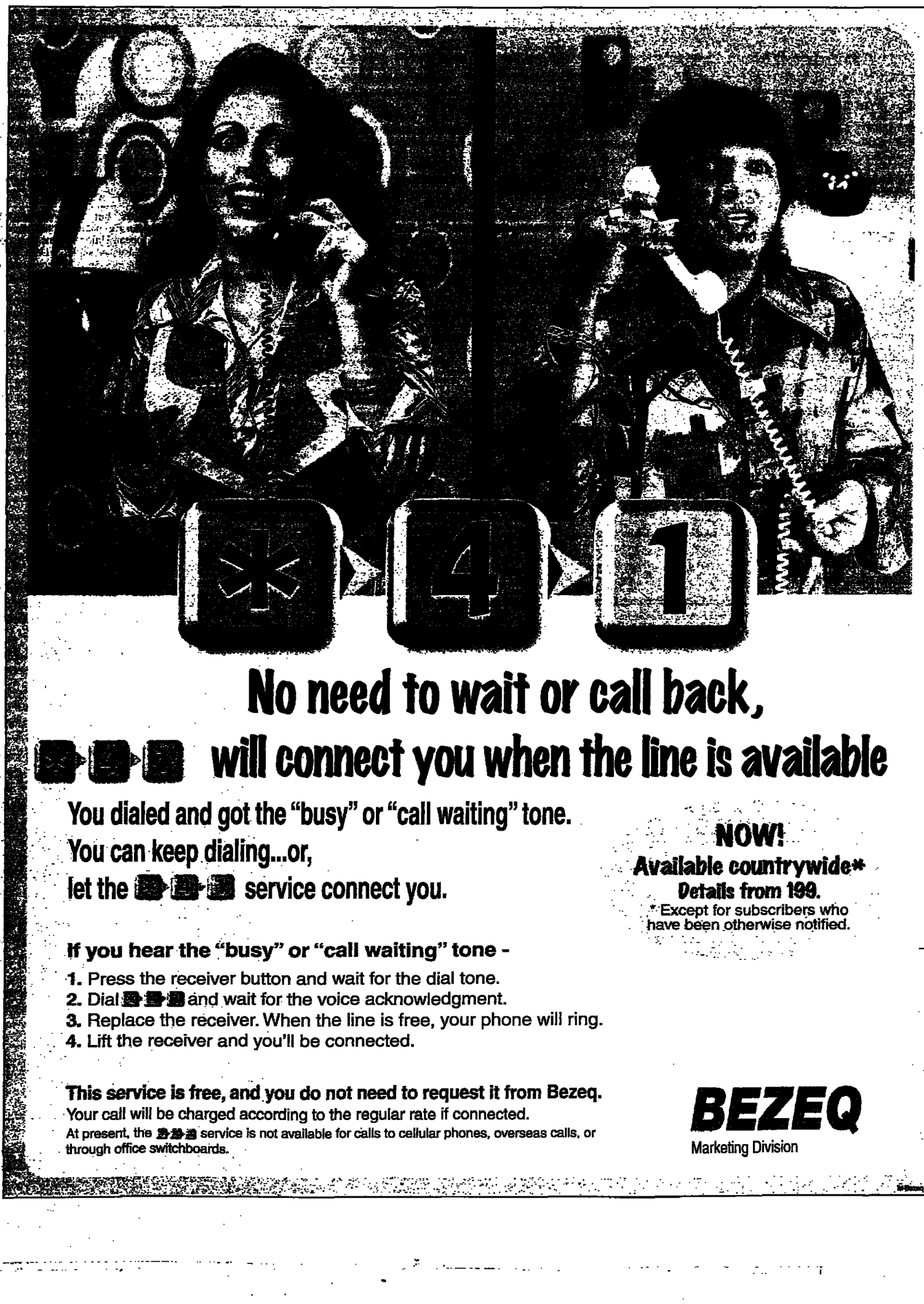
Amnon Shomron in ***Ma'ariv*** fails to comprehend the left wing's insistence on the participation of Syria every time the withdrawal issue arises, maintaining that it legitimizes Assad's strongarm tactics in Lebanon.

"Perhaps the fear that Lebanon and other countries might pull the carpet out from under his feet might have undermined his arrogance and forced Assad to the negotiating table."

Yediot's Smadar Perry says that according to Israeli experts, Assad is under pressure, because he fears that Lebanon will move towards a separate settlement with Israel. The "Lion from Damascus... has already begun to do something about it."

Women's day

Ma'ariv's Lapid reviews the status of women in Israel, weighing the inequality and violence towards women against some of the opportunities that have opened in the workplace. He gives the country a grade of C minus on the subject of womens' status.



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Nation hugs Rappaports

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Rappaport family received a bear hug from the nation yesterday as a grove was planted in the name of Sgt. Nikolai Rappaport, who was killed a month ago in a Hizbullah ambush in Lebanon.

The Jewish National Fund paid for Nikolai's parents, Ilya and Claudia, and his sister, Olga, to fly to Israel for the occasion from Krasnodar in the Russian Caucasus, where they have been since the Givati soldier was buried there last month.

Dressed in black, the family sat in the pale shade under pine saplings listening to a quartet playing Vivaldi. The tranquillity and peacefulness, the presence of the nation's top leaders and immigration officials, was a stark contrast to the tin shack in south Tel Aviv where Nikolai lived with his father and sister before he died in combat.

Nikolai was killed in Lebanon on February 7, several days before Tu Bi'shvat. Reports of his family's squalid living conditions shocked the nation and JNF officials said they were bombarded with requests to plant trees in his name. JNF Chairman Shlomo Gravitz said that it was decided to plant a grove of about 1,000 trees and make a park in Rappaport's name.

"It was no simple decision because Nikolai was not the only fallen soldier. But he is one of the few who died defending the state and was buried in a far off land," Gravitz said.

The Rappaports decided to bury Nikolai in Russia, near his non-Jewish mother's family. Following his death, his father and sister returned to live in Russia.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu helped Ilya Rappaport silently remove the curtain from the memorial plaque commemorating the park. It was a Star of David carved in limestone with the symbol of the IDF with an inscription in Hebrew and Russian.

Netanyahu noted that yesterday's ceremony took place on the 78th anniversary of the death of Josef Trumpeldor, who died protecting Jewish settlements in the Galilee Panhandle.

"Trumpeldor too came from Russia and he too decided that this was his country, that it was only here he could live as a Jew and only here the Jewish nation could not just survive but flourish," Netanyahu said. "To the Rappaport family I want to say that we are opening our arms to you. And if you want to, you can make your home here. I believe that Nikolai would have wanted you to."

Gravitz said he promised Ilya Rappaport a job with the JNF should they decide to return. He said that the JNF also would help bring Nikolai's body back to Israel for reburial if the family wants.

Ilya Rappaport said he would consider the job offer, but did not give an indication of whether a return to Israel was in the offing. The family plans to leave for Russia tomorrow. Ilya seemed more interested in Noam Leist, a 19-year-old soldier who was with Nikolai when he was killed, than in the job offer. Leist came to the ceremony from the hospital where he is recovering from wounds he received in the ambush.

In an emotionally charge speech at the ceremony, Lt. Shai Belaish spoke of how Nikolai had been determined to prove himself as a member of the Jewish nation in uniform.

"You have been buried in a far off land, but your memory will remain in the hearts of your comrade in arms forever," the young lieutenant said.

In the evening, the Rappaports visited the family of Lt. Assaf Rosenfeld, Nikolai's commander, who was killed recently in Lebanon. David Rosenfeld, Assaf's father, gave the Rappaports a Tanach inscribed with the words, "By virtue of our sons, who stood and fell together to defend our homeland, we have become one family."

Itim contributed to this report.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, flanked by Upper Galilee Regional Council head Aharon Valency (l) and Kiryat Shmona Mayor Haim Barbivai (r) stand in front of the memorial to Yosef Trumpeldor and his comrades who fell at Tel Hai. (Avihu Shapira/Israel Sun)

The ultimate donation to Israel

COMMENT

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

In life the Rappaports' soldier son Nikolai lived like a dog. Then he died as a hero, and in his death we began to feel guilty about our neglect of needy immigrants.

Yet, where was everybody when the Rappaports – and other impoverished immigrants – really needed us?

We have trouble reconciling ourselves to the fact that this family has rejected us and chosen to bury their son in a far off land among a foreign people.

It was bad enough that we had to experience collective guilt over the squalor the Rappaports lived in after they immigrated. To deprive us of the chance to turn over a new leaf, seems incomprehensible.

How ironic that the Hebrew dailies have turned the plight of the Rappaports into a question of whether they will return to Russia or stay and make a life here – never mind the issue of how they are coping with their terrible loss. Yesterday, everyone seemed to be falling all over themselves with proposals to help the Rappaports. Besides a grove, The Jewish National Fund offered father Ilya a job and said it was willing to pay to have Nikolai's body exhumed and reburied in the Holy Land. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu too tried to coax the the family to move back to Israel.

At one point, the fallen soldier's family was even being ordered where to stand so that photographers could get the best shot of government officials standing next to the bereaved family, – pictures which could be used as proof that we in Israel really care about our immigrants.

A senior JNF official presented a tree planting certificate as if the Rappaports had just won a prize, when actually they had just made the ultimate donation.

PM car hit en route to Tel Hai

By DAVID RUDGE

Hundreds of people, led by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, attended the annual memorial ceremony at Tel Hai yesterday to mark the 78th anniversary of the battle in which Yosef Trumpeldor and his seven comrades fell defending the area.

Senior IDF officers, soldiers of all ranks and, youth organizations, including the Betar movement, members of the public, MKs and senior government and public officials took part in the ceremony.

There was a slight delay because of an accident involving the prime minister's car as he and his wife Sara were being driven to Tel Hai.

The accident happened north of Kiryat Shmona when an escorting vehicle apparently hit the rear of Netanyahu's car, causing some damage. The prime minister and his wife were unhurt and changed vehicles to reach the ceremony.

Afterwards the couple visited an exhibition of photographs taken by the IDF Spokesman's office at a photographic museum at the nearby Tel Hai industrial zone. The exhibit, comprising dozens of photos depicting life in the IDF had been mounted to mark the state's 50th anniversary.

NRP's Zvi Hendel protests award of Israel Prize to Amos Oz

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

MK Zvi Hendel of the National Religious Party threatened yesterday to petition the High Court of Justice against awarding novelist Amos Oz the Israel Prize because of an essay he wrote in the 1980's criticizing the settlers.

"What Oz wrote about 'a cruel messianic cult in Sebastia' has hurt all the settlers. An author who calls a considerable part of the public 'a Jewish Hizbullah' must be disqualified from being awarded the literature prize," said Hendel, who lives in the Gaza Strip, and once headed the Gaza Coast Regional Council.

Other NRP members urged Oz to apologize for what he wrote, but did not call for the prize to be rescinded.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said what Oz had written was "serious" and "deserves a strong rebuke" but added he was not convinced of the need to petition the court.



Amos Oz

Authors and politicians who came to Oz's defense said that the essay had criticized extremists and not the entire settlement movement.

In the essay – written in the aftermath of the 1983 murder of peace activist Emil Grunzweig – warns then Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the chief rabbis, that they could be victims of the next assassination.

Grunzweig was killed by a grenade thrown into the crowd at a Peace Now rally.

"If you don't rise and call a murder a murder, then you too shall not be immune from the murderers' bullets. There in the darkness already lurks someone who sees you, too, as traitors, there lurks one who has let your blood, too," Oz wrote.

"What Oz wrote was prophetic," MK Avraham Shohat (Labor) said yesterday. "If we had heeded Oz's call then, six and a half years before Rabin's assassination, we could have prevented the awful assassination."

Prize committee member Prof. Yehuda Friedlander said that political views should not figure in a decision about awarding a literary prize.

"An artist cannot be drafted to one doctrine or another, otherwise he would be a trumpet rather than an artist," Friedlander said. "In academia, a person's positions and utterances are in no way relevant. It was the whole body of Oz's work which was considered, including his published essays."

Novelist Eli Amir denounced the attempt to take the prize from Oz as "a political battle to delegitimize Oz and the entire peace camp."

Novelist Shulamit Lapid called the attempt to deprive Oz of the prize for his views as "ignorant and spiteful."

"Oz is an author of all of Israel, including the settlers," Lapid said.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

'Oz opposition politically charged'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

There is "no comparison" between the demands to not give author Amos Oz the Israel Prize and similar demands raised last year which eventually led to journalist Shmuel Schnitzer not getting the prize, Dr. Dov Goldberger, adviser to the Education Minister on the Israel Prizes, said yesterday.

"It's a much different and less serious matter than the Schnitzer case," he said. The High Court of Justice [then] said that since there was a judicial process in the Journalists Council, in which Schnitzer was convicted regarding his journalistic work, this was something the nominating committee should consider, and so it asked it to reconsider the matter."

"What is happening here is nothing like this and has nothing to do with it.

"No one is talking about his professional standing as an author, and whether he deserves the prize or not, but rather they have turned the matter into a political one, regarding his political views expressed in a 10-year-old article. There is no judicial procedure here, no discussion of the field of endeavor...so it is completely dissimilar.

"Someone is just launching a political discussion of the matter, so it will be discussed in political forums, it has absolutely nothing to do with professional matters. No one says he doesn't deserve it because he isn't a good author, right?"

Goldberger explained that the panel usually has three to five members. In this case there were four: Prof. Aliza Shenhar, author Amnon Shamush, Prof. Yehuda Friedlander, and *Yediot Aharonot* literary supplement editor Zissi Stavi.

"The main thing they take into consideration is the professional level and excellence in the field," he said. "They examine his life's work. In his case, he wrote 22 books, most of which they said are very good, and his work has been translated into 30 languages, more than any other Israeli author."

Goldberger said the panels are comprised of leading individuals from various fields. Efforts are made to ensure that the same people are not chosen repeatedly, and that different universities and disciplines are represented on the panels, he said.

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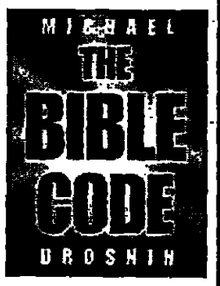
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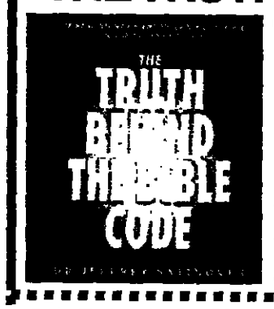
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Meretz, Gesher decide to run jointly in Histadrut elections

By LIAT COLLINS

The Israeli Social List. That's the name, at least for now, of the new party comprising a merger between Meretz and Gesher, that is running for the Histadrut. In a festive ceremony in the Knesset, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the two parties might also run jointly for some local authorities in the municipal elections, but he tried to keep expectations down. The list will be led by MK Maxim Levy.

Despite the festive atmosphere and compliments bandied around at the celebration of the agreement yesterday there are some unsolved issues such as who will hold what position on the list and who will be its candidate for the head of the Naamat women's organization. Gesher leader and former foreign minister David Levy denied that the alliance was a purely tactical move.

"As head of Gesher I showed everyone my determination and insistence on the truth. Here, too, there is truth and determination. We're going for it," Levy said.

"We will run together for some local councils. That's enough for the time being. There's no need to pin on this important alliance more than need be pinned on it at this moment," Sarid said.

David Levy said the platform is against government privatization plans. "There is an anti-social policy in Israel today," he said. "Nobody is sure that he won't also join those 170,000 unemployed." He said that the party's credo does not differentiate between left and right, different types of Jews or ethnic communities.



MK Yossi Sarid of Meretz (left) and former foreign minister David Levy (right) offer each other a chair before a ceremony held yesterday in the Knesset to seal a merger of their parties for the Histadrut elections. (Isaac Harari)

Sarid said the merger with Gesher was "natural" because the two parties had acted together on social initiatives. The Histadrut elections are scheduled for June.

Elli Wohlgelernter adds

In Jerusalem, nasty slogans labeling David Levy an agent of the PLO, were spray-painted on the Gesher office front on Sarei Yisrael Street, in anticipation of the Meretz-Gesher merger.

Two-year-old dies in emergency room

By JUDY SIEGEL

A two-year-old girl who died yesterday in the emergency room of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem was buried within hours, after her haredi parents refused to allow an autopsy.

The girl, Rahel Lieberman, was sick for four or five days before her parents took her to the hospital. She reportedly had been treated for chicken pox with Optalgin, an over-the-counter pain medication.

Hospital medical director Dr. Zvi Stern said that without an autopsy it would be impossible to determine the cause of death.

"This was the first case of a child dying suddenly in the emergency room in a long time," Stern said.

Although members of the family claimed the toddler was left untreated for an hour after arriving at the hospital, Stern said she was examined immediately upon entry by a doctor and a nurse, who decided to put her in isolation in the general (rather than pediatric) emergency room because chicken pox is very infectious. But they did not believe she needed immediate treatment.

The family claimed the child was suffering from dehydration and fever. After checking the child's blood pressure, the nurse left the father alone to take the child's temperature, the family said.

An hour after reaching the hospital, the child stopped breathing and her nose began to bleed. Doctors spent 50 minutes trying to resuscitate her, but failed.

Women petition High Court to let them join navy's sailor course

Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

Meretz MKs Anat Maor and Naomi Chazan, along with four women who wish to become sailors, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to force the IDF to open the navy's flagship sailors' course to women.

The petition claims that, in addition to discriminating against women, the navy's refusal to accept them in the course flies in the face of previous High Court decisions to allow women to enroll in the pilots' course and serve in the air force.

The petition, which named Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal, and OC Women's Corps Brig.-Gen. Orit Adatto, demanded that women be permitted to take the course's entrance exams, to take part in the course, and, if they pass it, to be assigned appropriately.

Women are barred from the navy's training courses on the grounds that they never serve on navy vessels, the petition said.

The navy has barred women from serving on navy vessels because the IDF has barred women from being stationed outside of the state's borders, the petition added. The navy also claims that having women and men together on vessels would cause sexual tension.

However, there are women serving in combat roles today who are stationed abroad, the petition claims, citing female doctors who are sent to Lebanon. Furthermore, there is a much lower chance that a sailor would be captured by the enemy than a member of the air force, the petition claimed.

The petition also refuted the claim that allowing women into the navy would cause sexual tension, noting that navies of other countries allow women and men to work side by side.

The petition also noted that by barring women from certain roles in the military, their opportunities to be promoted to key positions, both within the IDF and in the civilian economy, are hindered.

NEWS *in brief*

Reporter who wrote 'divorce' story resigns

The *Yediot Aharonot* reporter responsible for the story of the Bnei Brak man who was forced by a rabbinical court to divorce his wife after she was raped has resigned, after it was determined that the story had been fabricated.In a letter to Rabbi Yossi Valis of Manof, the Jewish Information Center in Jerusalem, *Yediot Aharonot* editor Elon Shalev reported that "after a repeated examination of the report, we found that beyond rumors about the matter, it was devoid of factual basis." The letter said the reporter, Moshe Suissa, had resigned *Michal Yudelman*

Man convicted of attempted rape

Baruch Dasah, 76, was convicted yesterday by the Tel Aviv District Court of three counts of attempting to rape a mentally retarded nine-year-old girl The incidents occurred some five years ago. He had been accused of actually raping the girl four times, but because of contradictions in the testimony, Judge Amnon Strashnov decided to convict him of three counts of attempted rape. Attempted rape and rape convictions usually receive the same sentence. Dasah will be sentenced in May. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Man remanded in rape

Alon Koren, 25, of Tel Aviv, was remanded for four days yesterday, on suspicion he raped a 19-year-old blind girl he had met via a radio program. He also is suspected of stealing her cane, her watch, and money. According to police, when they met the first time, the girl initially agreed to have sex but then changed her mind, and Koren allegedly forced himself on her despite her entreaties to stop.The second time, Koren arranged a meeting with her under an assumed name, and the girl at first did not realize her date was the same man who had raped her. He allegedly dragged her to a secluded spot and attempted to rape her, but a car that suddenly passed nearby scared him and he fled.The suspect has previous convictions for sex offenses, police said. *Itim*

Officials seek solutions for capital tent camp

A committee of officials from the Housing Ministry and the Jerusalem Municipality is to examine whether the 18 families whose shacks at a makeshift camp burned down last week have any housing rights and can be relocated. The Knesset Economics Committee toured the camp, located across from the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday and were told by fire officials who accompanied them that the place was a death trap for its inhabitants. Committee chairman MK Avi Yehezkel (Labor) demanded that the whole system of assigning public housing and determining housing rights be reexamined. *Itim*

White supremacists target Wiesenthal, ADL

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has increased its already-tight security measures in response to reports that the center is on the hit list of The New Order, a white supremacist group. At a bail hearing for three members of the organization in East St. Louis, Illinois, the FBI revealed that also targeted were the Anti-Defamation League's New York headquarters; Morris Dees, head of the Southern Poverty Law Center; and an unidentified federal judge. "We are used to threatening calls and hate mail, which we get on a monthly basis, but we take this latest threat much more seriously," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Wiesenthal Center. "The New Order has shown that it is willing to implement its threats and had actually gone after Mr. Dees." *Tom Tugend*

13-year-old dies in Tel Aviv

A 13-year-old student at Seminar Hakibutzim died yesterday, apparently of cardiac arrest. A Magen David Adom crew rushed to the school, where medics spent an hour trying to resuscitate the unconscious youth. He was then taken to Dana Children's Hospital in Tel Aviv, where he died. *Itim*

Health funds still charges extra for diabetes drugs

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Diabetes Association yesterday protested against a failure to include 15 vital medications, including drugs for diabetes, in the basket of health services – despite a Treasury decision in December to do so.

Haya Cohen, director of the association, wrote state Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, in demand of immediate action. She said that diabetics who belong to Kupat Holim Clalit are being forced to pay for the expensive medications. Most other health funds are also charging AIDS and diabetes patients for these drugs.

The ministry spokesman said that the cause of the delay was foot-dragging by the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, which recently decided to link the NIS 150 million cost of the medications with another NIS 300 million that the ministry is seeking to cover deficits in the health system.

The ministry, however, insisted that allocations for the drugs be approved immediately.

What the cat dragged in

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

It was a Purim tale told early, a case of mistaken identity that turned funny when it was over, but not until then.

In a city where police are investigating three unsolved homicides and have no clue on the whereabouts of a missing person, a phone call to Jerusalem police Sunday night saying a severed penis was found inside an apartment gave them reason enough to suspect another abhorrent crime had been committed.

Dozens of policemen were sent to the Ramat Sharett neighborhood, where two students had returned to their apartment on Kadish Luz Street to find the penis on their couch.

"I immediately searched the entire house," one of the students said, "because I thought I might find other body parts." None were found, and they deduced that the organ must have been brought into the ground-floor apartment by a cat.

The police combed the area for two hours, with no luck. At dawn yesterday they continued the search for another four hours, hoping to find the corpse they thought the penis – which looked to be in an advanced state of decay – had come from.

After six hours of searching, it seemed that another unsolved savage crime had been committed. But late in the morning, results came back from the Abu Kabir pathological institute, where the penis had been sent for testing. No, it was not a severed penis, but the fetus of a cat, which perhaps its mother brought to the apartment.

Case closed, accompanied by a sigh of relief.

Agency announces housing plans for elderly

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

More than 30,000 elderly people, most of them new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, are homeless and the Jewish Agency is trying to find housing solutions for them, agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday.

Burg was speaking at a press conference on the $30 million campaign the agency and its housing company, Amigur, are launching to provide thousands of housing units for the elderly and the needy. Burg said the agency and Amigur plan to turn absorption centers and old hostels into some 2,000 housing units.

In addition, the agency is raising millions of dollars abroad to finance the building of hundreds of housing units.

Amigur also has proposed a plan to take advantage of the Jewish Agency's land reserves by expanding existing structures. If the government approves this plan, it will provide 7,000 more housing units.

Amigur director-general Arye Abir said the company is working on creating modern housing units for people that are over 55 years old. The homes will be equipped with high-quality standard conveniences and safety devices. The tenant also will get "a basket of services," including a Russian- or Yiddish-speaking house manager, 24-hour maintenance, Ulpan, classes, trips, lectures etc.

Renting the units will cost about NIS 600, of which the tenant would pay NIS 160 while the government subsidizes the rest.

No-confidence motions fail

AT THE KNESSET
by LIAT COLLINS

No-confidence motions on the economy failed in the Knesset last night, by a vote of 45-42, with three abstentions (the two Moledet MKs and Gesher's David Magen).

The motions, which were joined together for the vote, would have required the support of 61 MKs to topple the government.

MKs then raced out of the Knesset to take part in a charity football match against artists and entertainers.

More death threats

The Knesset Guard and police are investing another death threat mailed to Speaker Dan Tichon and coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit, the third recent hate letter the two have received.

The letter to Tichon read: "To the honorable MK and Speaker of the Jewish Nazi Federation Mr. Dan Tichon

"The subject: A world conference for Nazism and Holocaust denial

"You are hereby invited to the above conference on March 13 at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem at 10 am. Please be punctual.

"Yours sincerely, Katznelson Dani, federation secretary."

The previous threats were unsigned. They were mailed from Haifa.

Tit for tat

MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), who heads the Land of Israel Front, has sent a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu saying that Israel should annex communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza every time Yasser Arafat gives the Palestinian Authority the trappings of a sovereign state.

Kleiner's call comes following a meeting of the Palestinian National Council, in which Arafat called himself "president of the State of Palestine." Kleiner said this title is a violation of the Oslo agreements.

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Fix it, Suharto

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Which part of "fix it!" doesn't Indonesia's President Suharto understand? He is sitting not on the proverbial powder keg, but on a glowing mass of fissionable material – 200 million angry and disillusioned citizens. They are fingering useless rupiah notes in an economy where rice and cooking oil are becoming the only hard currency.

Suharto replaced the Communist Sukarno three decades ago as leader of a corrupt, bankrupt and inflation-crippled nation of the '60s. He and his family have since managed to transform the world's largest secular Moslem state into a corrupt, bankrupt and inflation-crippled nation of the '90s.

The International Monetary Fund came to Indonesia's rescue in the midst of the recent Asian crisis with a $43 billion credit package. This was mainly to stem the catastrophic collapse of the rupiah – and indeed the economic collapse of a vast country, with all that implied for a social disaster in Asia and who-knows-what internationally.

The need for reform could not be impressed too strongly on Suharto – as indeed it was by the IMF and by Bill Clinton.

King of spades

Unusually for diplomats, the foreigners did not mince their words about where reforms should strike first, namely at the Suharto family cartels, businesses, banks and monopolies that strangle the normal operation of the economy.

Last week US envoy Walter Mondale delivered another urgent message from Washington to Suharto. The gist of the message: There are no quick fixes for Indonesia, so fix it anyway!

As riot police massed outside the University of Indonesia in Jakarta, and thousands of students stepped up protests in seven cities, Suharto had more weighty matters on his mind than economic reconstruction, American envoys or civil unrest.

It had come to his attention that some of the students were waving advance copies of Friday's magazine, *D & R*. On its cover was splashed a picture of the king of spades with Suharto's face. This variation on the theme of sweet three-card tricksters suggested that no matter how often Indonesians played the election card, they always get the king of spades.

Indonesia has a so-called election this week. The People's Consultative Assembly, mostly appointed by Suharto, will re-elect guess-who for a seventh five-year term.

Conundrums

The spin the outraged government (namely the information minister) put on the magazine's piece of juvenile nonsense is that it "insults the constitution" because Indonesia does not have a king. The printers duly dealt with this on the next run by removing a crown and replacing a letter K for king with P for president. So that's all right then – instead of facing closure for insulting the constitution, *D & R* can face the music for insulting Big P.

An increasingly emboldened press in Indonesia is somewhat protected by growing international exasperation with Suharto. Serious reforms were tied to the huge IMF financial package. Unlike other troubled Asian nations who gulped down the IMF's medicine with a wince, the wily dictator has been trying to drop it down the sink.

For the present, he cannot afford to irritate Washington and the European Union further by outright repression of trivial media jibes or peaceful student protests. There is here a growing conundrum for the world community – meaning the powerful West – and not just in Indonesia.

The immediate problem for the West in Indonesia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq and much of Africa, are principles of sovereignty, internal affairs and intervention.

With colonialism so recently dead, Euro-based democracies are faced with accusations of cultural or economic imperialism on one side, of failure to fight repression on the other.

Victoriana

In the case of Indonesia, no one in their right mind would suggest direct intervention to force Suharto to abide by IMF resolutions. So why not let Indonesia stew in its own juices, if it tolerates being ruled by corrupt crony-capitalists?

One good reason is the reminder that when Sukarno was overthrown in 1966, Suharto's coup resulted in the death of half a million Indonesians. Avoiding any civil war among 200 million people is worth a lot of IMF dollars and international concern.

History may have a tough time looking back at the end of the 20th century. Are the worst democracies still better places to live than the best autocracies? Global shrinkage has brought Jakarta and Kosovo nearer to Western democracies than Liverpool and Scotland were to the Victorian English. Likewise, they have also brought closer the teeming sweatshops and bubble economies that service the designer markets of the rich and pointless.

The response of the educated and comfortable of the West is similar too: Something must be done! However, let it be done by someone else, or with a magic wand, or by the deus ex machina beloved of Victorian dramatists.

There is no magic wand, there may not even be a deus any more. There is only fear that the contagion might spread. Or it might bring a new flood of refugees to Europe, or a flood of too-cheap microchips, trainers and VCRs to America.

There's no time to think. Send for the IMF and break out the Bank Aids. In the meantime, fix it, Suharto!

Indonesia, IMF avoid showdown

By RAJU GOPALAKRISHNAN

JAKARTA – Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund sought to mend fences on Monday after a delay in injection of IMF funds spread despair about the future of the country's economy.

The delay in the disbursement of a $3 billion IMF tranche threatened to stretch Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves to the limit or beyond, throwing the economically ravaged nation into further turmoil, analysts said.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas attempted to calm the tensions with the Fund, which is unhappy about the pace of Indonesian economic reform. He said President Suharto was committed to reforms prescribed by the IMF and did not want any alterations.

"We are going to implement the agreed program on the reform and restructuring of our economy," Alatas told reporters on the sidelines of a session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), which on Tuesday will re-elect Suharto for a seventh five-year term of office.

The IMF also played down the growing confrontation with Indonesia. The Fund's country representative in Jakarta, Kadhim Al-Eyd, told Reuters a review team hoped soon to conclude talks with the government on the disbursement of $3 billion from its more than $40b. financial bail-out package.

But tensions mounted elsewhere as thousands of students held protests against Suharto's re-election.

Witnesses said students gathered inside campuses in Jakarta and the cities of Bandung and Yogyakarta, chanting slogans and waving banners against Suharto. The protests were in defiance of a government ban on political gatherings.

The country's military chief meanwhile said he would be severe with anyone who broke the law.

"If people are hot-tempered and ready to cut down the symbols of the state, yes, I will gladly prohibit them. If they are still determined, I will be determined. The difference is they are breaking the law, I am protecting the law," General Wiranto said in a magazine interview.

Economic analysts said Indonesia's finances were in dire straits, and the delay of the IMF installment of about $2.5b. from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank which were to accompany the tranche, would stretch foreign-exchange reserves.

News of the delay in the disbursement and comments by Suharto and a government minister over the weekend criticizing the IMF and its prescribed reform package spooked markets around the region.

"Let's be honest about, it is actually very serious in Indonesia," Daim Zainuddin, economic adviser to the Malaysian government, told Reuters in Kuala Lumpur.

The rupiah plunged in early trade on Monday and fell to as low as 12,250 to the dollar before clawing back to around 11,000 by the close after Bank Indonesia raised short-term interest rates of central bank papers.

The Jakarta stock market index closed down Monday over 3.2 percent at 495.81 points.



As Suharto's government attempted to calm tensions with the IMF this week, Jakarta residents waited on line for subsidized food handouts. (AP)

Singapore's Straits Times Index closed down more than 2% while Seoul stocks fell more than 3.4% on woes linked to Indonesia.

"The IMF package will impose a liberal economy, which is not in line with Article 33 (of the constitution)," Suharto told Yusuf Syakir, a leader of the minority United Development Party, on Sunday.

But in a harder statement, State Minister of National Development Planning Ginandjar Kartasamita warned that multilateral agencies such as the IMF should not degrade Indonesia, a newspaper reported on Monday.

"We welcome international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank to help Indonesia. But if that means they can impose their will or humiliate us, we would be better off without their aid," Ginandjar, who said he was speaking as a ruling Golkar party official, was quoted by the Indonesian Observer as saying.

The IMF executive board had been due to decide on the second $3.0b. tranche by March 15, but the Fund said on Friday the board would be unable to meet before April. The money was intended for balance of payments support.

Because the delay was announced after weeks of complaints that Indonesia was dragging its feet on the reform program, many took it as a sign of IMF ire.

"Indonesia is facing severe liquidity problems," said Thio Chin Loo, an analyst at Banque Paribas in Singapore. "The delay in IMF aid is surely adding to the already dire financial position."

"Unless a real commitment and action is taken by Indonesia to step up reform efforts, the outlook looks increasingly bleak." Other analysts said the demands on Indonesia's foreign-exchange reserves were mounting because of its guarantee of all local bank liabilities and deposits and that reports of a $2.2b. short-dollar position at state-owned Bank Ekspor Impor (Exim) could just be the tip of the iceberg.

The analysts noted that Indonesia's gross foreign assets amounted to $16.33b. at the end of February, down from $19.06b. at the end of January.

Analysts, noting that only about $10b. of this was in usable foreign exchange reserves, said they were mystified at the reasons for the fall.

"Say they are using about $1.0b. per month on food.

But the rest must be going to support the banking system and probably to cover forward liabilities," said one analyst.

"It's a severe balance of payments crunch. If Exim is in any way reflective of forward swaps by local banks, the government is incredibly close to being bankrupt," he said.

In Jakarta, however, interest remained focused on politics.

Suharto, the only candidate for the job, will be formally re-elected president by the mostly hand-picked 1,000-member MPR assembly on Tuesday and sworn in on Wednesday.

Within the MPR there has been no opposition to Suharto, an autocratic former army general who has ruled Indonesia for more than three decades, but protests have mounted across the nation blaming him and the government for the economic crisis. (Reuters)

Digs reveal layers of Beirut's cosmopolitan past

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II

BEIRUT – In the rubble of a modern-day Beirut smashed by 16 years of internecine warfare that ended in 1990, archeologists from around the world are scrambling to unearth the rubble of civilizations past.

With bulldozers nipping at their heels and developers rebuilding a modern, cosmopolitan city, these seekers of the ancient are discovering that Beirut, Lebanon, was also a cosmopolitan city throughout most of its past.

Digging below the basements of battle-scarred buildings and mangled marketplaces while contractors wait impatiently to build new ones, the harried scientists found that the city has persisted through waves of occupation by Canaanites, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, English Crusaders and the Ottoman Turks.

The digs already have demonstrated that the city has been occupied continuously for at least 5,000 years, twice as long as had previously been proved, and has hosted more foreign invaders than had been suspected.

According to archeologist Leila Badre, director of the Museum of the American University of Beirut, there are 113 excavation sites in downtown Beirut, covering an area of more than half a million square yards.

The large-scale destruction of Beirut has provided a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity"to explore the history of a still-occupied city, said archeologist Bill Duval of the University of Arizona. The excavations under way could not be attempted in a city with intact buildings and are "simply unprecedented," he added.

With the developers looking over their shoulders, archeologists in Beirut have abandoned their traditional approach of digging for a few weeks or months, then stopping to examine their finds and interpret their meaning. Digging now proceeds year-round with as many workers as can be conscripted with the limited funds available.

"We've never dug continuously for so long," Badre said. "We only stop when it rains." The teams have already warehoused millions of pottery shards, more than 10,000 coins, thousands of square yards of mosaics, tons of building materials and hundreds of pounds of animal bones. But even more may have been lost irretrievably in the construction of new buildings rising above the rubble.

See BEIRUT, Page 7



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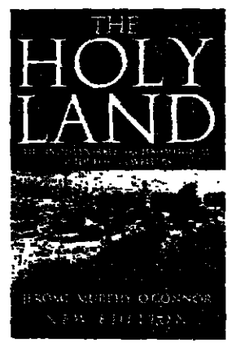
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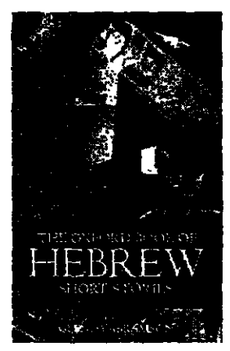
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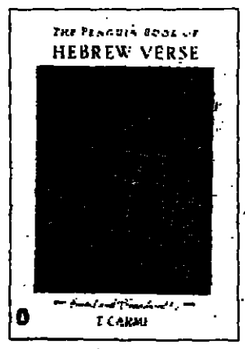
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Russia shuns Western sanction threat on Milosevic

By DAVID LJUNGGREN

LONDON (Reuters) – Russia dissented from a decision by five Western powers to impose immediate financial sanctions on Belgrade and threaten to freeze Yugoslav and Serbian government assets on March 25 unless Milosevic reverses course.

Major world powers demanded yesterday that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic end a crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and open a political dialogue on autonomy.

"The violent repression of non-violent expression of political views is completely indefensible," ministers from the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy said in a joint statement.

"The situation in Kosovo cannot be resolved by heavy-handed policing activity, and the international community will not tolerate the use of the police in such a repressive way as we have seen over the past week with so many deaths," British Foreign Minister Robin Cook told a news conference.

The six-nation Contact Group, created to promote peace in Bosnia, urged the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in The Hague to consider prosecuting people accused of war crimes in the Kosovo crackdown, in which at least 80 people have been killed in the last 10 days.

The ministers called for former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez to mediate in Kosovo on behalf of the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

They also demanded that Belgrade allow the UN Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate the situation in the southern Serbian province.

The five Western powers agreed on an immediate ban on government-financed export credit support for trade, investment and privatisation in Serbia. Cook noted that Milosevic was using the proceeds of privatization to pay his security forces.

After a telephone call with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov in Moscow, Cook said all six countries had agreed the UN Security Council should consider a comprehensive arms embargo, and would ban sales of equipment that could be used for repression and deny visas for senior Yugoslav and Serbian officials involved in the crackdown.

However Russia did not agree to the two key financial sanctions.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she was satisfied with the agreement despite Russia's reservations, adding: "We need to remember the only kind of pressure President Milosevic understands is the kind that imposes a real price on his unacceptable behavior." Albright said it was vital to avoid a repetition of the international community's hesitant response to the start of the Yugoslav wars in 1991.

The Contact Group will meet to review the situation on March 25.

As yesterday's meeting began, Albanian sources in Kosovo said police had returned to their families the bodies of 57 people killed in last week's fighting, more than twice the number Belgrade had admitted killing. Ethnic Albanians staged a huge protest demonstration in the Kosovo capital Pristina but Serbian police did not intervene this time to break it up.

Cook said the ministers agreed that a United Nations peacekeeping force should remain in neighbouring Macedonia to prevent the conflict spreading to that former Yugoslav republic, which has a restive Albanian minority.

Milosevic, who ordered last week's onslaught on suspected Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrilla strongholds, told the visiting Turkish foreign minister on Sunday that Kosovo was an internal affair.

But Albright rebutted that argument in her speech to the ministers, saying: "We must first acknowledge that this crisis is not an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The violence is an affront to universal standards of human rights we are pledged to uphold."

Gonzalez brokered a solution to a stand-off between Milosevic and Serbian opposition parties in 1996 over disputed municipal elections, but there is no sign that the Yugoslav leader will accept such mediation this time. Diplomatic sources said NATO was expected to hold a meeting this week at Albania's request to discuss Kosovo.

The meeting would mark the first time that a country in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PFP) organisation has invoked a clause giving it the right to call for emergency talks with the ambassadors of NATO's 16 member states.



A Serb policeman walks past the destroyed house of Adem Jashari, the alleged leader of the ethnic Albanian KLA-Kosovo Liberation Army in the village of Donji Prekaz on Sunday. (AP)

Gonzalez may mediate Kosovo talks

MADRID (Reuters) – Former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez said yesterday he would accept the role of international mediator in the conflict in Serbia's Kosovo province if Yugoslav authorities gave their approval.

Six major powers meeting in London called on Gonzalez to undertake a mission on behalf of the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Gonzalez, in Mexico attending an academic conference, told state radio earlier on Monday: "Any OSCE mission...depends on its acceptance by Yugoslav authorities."

"If there is no (approval), then there's no mission. It is no longer in my hands to decide this," he said. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who ordered last week's crackdown on separatist ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, told the visiting Turkish foreign minister on Sunday that the conflict was an internal matter.

Fighting between Serbian police and ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of the province's population, has resulted in the worst bloodshed since Kosovo's autonomy was withdrawn in 1989. Dozens of people have been killed.

Ministers from the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy agreed on a plan to press Milosevic to end the crackdown. NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, who served as foreign minister under Gonzalez's former Socialist administration, said last week there was a "good possibility" Gonzalez would be entrusted with an OSCE peace mission in Kosovo.

The OSCE was due to discuss the Kosovo crisis at a meeting on Wednesday in Vienna.

Gonzalez was credited during his 14 years in power with guiding Spain in its transition to democracy after four decades of dictatorship. His government was voted out in 1996 after a series of corruption and security scandals.

Sweden to retry Palme's suspected killer

By BELINDA GOLDSMITH

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) – State prosecutors yesterday took their case a stage further to seek the retrial of a man once convicted but later acquitted of the 1986 murder of then-Swedish prime minister Olof Palme.

For the past three months, the prosecutor general has been preparing final papers to seek approval from the Supreme Court for a retrial of Christer Pettersson, 50.

Magnus Nordangard, spokesman for the prosecutor general's office, said these documents, along with a submission from Pettersson's lawyer, were handed to the court yesterday. A decision was expected within months, he added.

"The prosecutor general is continuing to seek a retrial. Nothing has changed in his opinion," Nordangard said.

Pettersson cannot be charged until the Supreme Court agrees to a new trial. He remains a free man until this happens.

Palme was shot dead in a central Stockholm street on February 28, 1986, as he was walking home, unguarded, from the cinema with his wife, Lisbet.

Pettersson, who was known to police and had a history of violence, was convicted of the murder in 1989 but acquitted later that year on appeal due to insufficient evidence. Since then, various conspiracy theories have emerged for the killing of Palme, a radical leftist politician who campaigned against apartheid and the Vietnam War, but police investigations have continued to concentrate on Pettersson.

Pettersson always has maintained his innocence, saying he was on a train going home after trying to buy amphetamines in the city at the time Palme was killed. He had no alibi.

Last December state prosecutors submitted a 33-page document to the Supreme Court which they said strengthened the case against Pettersson, with several new witnesses putting him at the scene of the murder.

But the Supreme Court would not accept the submission until Pettersson and his lawyer, Lars Ekman, had the right of reply.

Nordangard said the comments now received from the defense alleged that the new witnesses were untrustworthy and that their evidence was too old to be of use in a retrial.

However the prosecutor general disagreed.

"The prosecutor general says, according to the law, everything has been done correctly," Nordangard said. "He believes the witnesses are reliable and credible."

Nordangard said that, as well as several new witnesses, several old witnesses had added new information to their statements.

"The prosecutor general says the reason for these witnesses to give more now is that there has been a change in the environment in which they live," Nordangard said. "Some were under threat if they revealed certain facts during the last trial as they were so involved with people in the case, but now they're more independent to speak freely."

At the center of the new evidence is a Swedish lawyer who revealed last year that a client told him in a part written, part oral deathbed confession about a conspiracy to kill Palme.

Incumbents win Colombia congressional election

By TOM BROWN

BOGOTA (Reuters) – Colombian President Ernesto Samper's ruling Liberal Party won congressional elections held over the weekend against the backdrop of one of the bloodiest guerrilla offensives in Colombia's 30-year-old civil conflict.

But the poll, which was held Sunday amid a flurry of rebel attacks in which at least 19 people were killed, was marred by high abstention and the biggest vote-winner was a fierce critic of Samper.

Official results, with more than 95 percent of the votes counted, showed the Liberals winning 50% of the 102 seats in the Senate and besting the main opposition Conservative Party by more than two-to-one in the race for the 161-member House of Representatives.

There was no official breakdown on the exact number of seats won by each party but Bogota's *El Tiempo* newspaper said the Liberals won 52 senate seats against 22 for the Conservatives.

The remainder of the seats were distributed among various independent and coalition groups.

The hands down winner in the Senate vote was Ingrid Betancourt, leader of a dissident faction of the ruling party who led calls for Samper's impeachment amid the scandal that erupted over charges he bankrolled his 1994 presidential campaign with Cali cartel drug money.

The second-biggest winner in the Senate poll was Fabio Valencia Cossio, a Conservative Party boss from northwest Antioquia province who is also a vocal critic of Samper.

The main vote-winner in the race for the House was Antonio Navarro Wolff, an ideological leader of the former M-19 guerrilla movement who ran as an independent after ending a highly successful three-year term as mayor of the southern city of Pasto.

Other winners in the congressional vote included Sergio Cabrera, another former revolutionary who fought briefly with the Maoist-inspired People's Liberation Army and went on to become one of Latin America's top film makers.

Underscoring disaffection with Samper, who is due to hand over power in August after presidential elections in May, big losers in the race for the Senate included Luis Guillermo Nieto Roa, the lawyer who defended him from drug corruption charges that nearly led to his impeachment in 1996.

Other losers included Heyne Mogollon, a veteran lawmaker who headed a congressional committee that shelved impeachment charges against Samper in what was widely seen as a whitewash at the time.

Colombians have never been enthusiastic voters and abstention has traditionally hovered around 60% in congressional elections.

Abstention dropped to just under 60% in Sunday's balloting, aided at least in part by a government pledge to give preferential treatment to voters seeking state-controlled jobs, low-income housing or admittance to public universities.

Such incentives may explain why more than 10% of the ballots cast in Sunday's poll were either blank or annulled due to other irregularities.

As in the weeks preceding the vote, violence by Marxist guerrillas opposed to the government and politics as usual cast a shadow over the vote.

BEIRUT

Continued from Page 6

The "souk," or marketplace, where American University of Beirut archeologist Helga Seeden found 2,000 Roman lamps, 1,200 square yards of mosaics, seven silk industry basins, a set of well-preserved Byzantine shop porticoes and millions of potsherds was leveled by the bulldozers of the major development company Solidere to build a new souk.

Some walls of a fortress built by the Crusaders — and earmarked for preservation — were demolished, perhaps accidentally, by wrecking crews. Ten Iron Age tombs were crushed in construction of sewers. One Greek building was hastily disassembled and stored so a parking lot could be built.

Archeologists fear that many other sites will eventually be destroyed. "Our biggest question is: What will happen to all of this?" Badre said.

Badre has focused her efforts on a relatively small site next to the Mediterranean that proved to be the original location of the city. She described her work at a recent symposium at Loyola Marymount University in the Los Angeles area.

The first people to live at the site, she found, were probably Canaanites, who settled next to the Mediterranean in the third millennium B.C. Pottery shards found during digging inside the Crusader castle are typical of that period.

The Canaanites, who also populated the nearby cities of Byblos, Sidon and Tyre, eventually encircled their city with a stone wall reinforced by a clay embankment.

They named the city Birut, or "City of Wells." The Greeks called the people of these cities Phoenicians. "But we don't know what the residents of Birut called themselves because we have no written inscriptions," Badre said.

Greek texts make no mention of Birut, however. "When we started excavating, we were not sure we would find a Phoenician city," Badre said. "We knew we would find an earlier city, but we didn't know who they were."

Inside the wall, the early Beirutans erected buildings of brick, joined by mortar, on stone foundations. Remains of jars from the buildings are similar to those found in other Phoenician cities.

Birut might just as well have been called the "City of Walls" because around the 18th century BCE, the Canaanites enlarged the city by building a second wall a few meters outside the first. The workers used stones, some as much as one and a half meter long, taken from a nearby hill.

"The stones were not cut, but were used as is," and carefully fitted together, Badre said. The wall had an ornamental entrance and was reinforced by pilasters, square columns built at regular intervals along the wall.

"There is no evidence why they built the second wall or why they enlarged it by only a few meters," she said. "The city was built on top of the wall and later razed. Nothing is left, so it is difficult to interpret why they enlarged it." Centuries later, they built a third wall, a more massive "glacis" with sloping banks constructed of large pebblestones. Material from the interior of this glacis dates from the 13th century BCE, while that from the top dates from the 10th century. One type of pottery found inside the glacis was "totally unknown," she said.

But whatever was built on top of this wall remains a mystery because the Ottomans flattened it for a road. Badre's site was recently declared a permanent archeological park, a decision that she views as a mixed blessing. While the site was still destined to become a road, her research was supported by Solidere. "As soon as it was designated an archeological park, however, they lost interest and stopped funding us," she said.

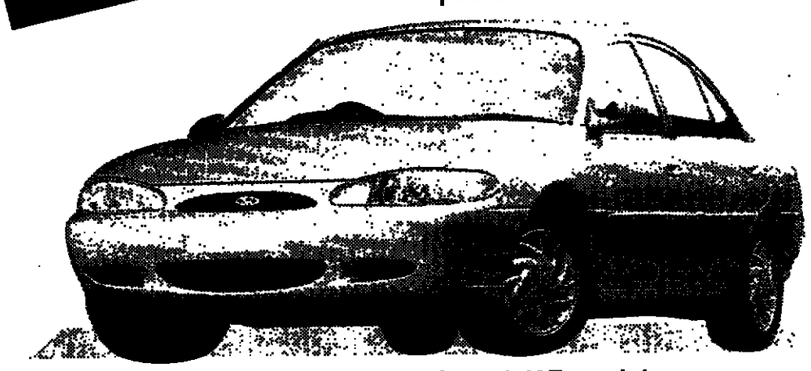
No one knows where the road will go now. (Los Angeles Times)

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Peru's President Fujimori takes on El Nino

By SEBASTIAN ROTELLA

ICA, Peru – After climbing aboard a police helicopter bound for the next destination in his whirlwind crusade against El Nino, President Alberto Fujimori did what he often does at such moments.

He took a nap.

Fujimori donned earphones handed to him by a military aide, gestured and smiled at two passengers to make room for him on their bench seat and lay down. Using a green duffel bag as a pillow, he went instantly to sleep in front of journalists and bodyguards crowded into the deafening Russian-made helicopter.

A wide-awake Fujimori, dressed for action in boots, jeans and a wind breaker, hit the ground running in the flood-pounded town of Ica half an hour later. He strode through startled crowds at a market under reconstruction, promised irate housewives he would restore their water service and deployed shirt-sleeved Cabinet ministers to direct recovery tasks, all the while exhibiting a prodigious command of rainfall statistics, street names and other minutiae.

As his round-the-clock micromanaging and airborne catnaps during this recent trip suggest, Fujimori has a singular, solitary leadership style that thrives on crisis. Last year, it was the hostage drama in the Japanese ambassador's residence that culminated in a globally televised commando rescue. This year, it's the El Nino-driven storms drubbing Peru.

"I am accustomed to this kind of managing of problems. After [the hostage crisis] in fact, I was getting bored," Fujimori said, cracking the smile that periodically creases his steely demeanor, as his pickup truck rolled through mud-caked streets where floods had peaked at chin level.

But critics say the notoriously hands-on president has hurt relief efforts by failing to delegate responsibility or communicate with local authorities.

"He can't do it alone," said Santiago Pedraglio, a political commentator. "A president is there for moral gestures, not to command in practical terms. He becomes the national, regional and provincial chief of civil defense. The whole system collapses. They can't do anything until Fujimori arrives."

The Fujimori vs. El Nino showdown is the latest chapter of Peru's national drama. Because recent scandals have weakened him politically, and because he has so closely identified himself with the fight against an unpredictable meteorological force, this challenge could be the most formidable yet.

During two days in which a *Los Angeles Times* reporter accompanied him around the nation, Fujimori proved a curious combination of two personas: the pragmatic technocrat and the vintage Latin American political strongman.

Fujimori, 59, has an unorthodox, detail-obsessed approach to a job that consumes and enthralls him. He radiates confidence in his own judgment and responds with a blank look when asked if he has historical idols or political role models.

At the mention of Fidel Castro – a leader he has praised despite the obvious differences between the legendary Cuban Marxist and the right-leaning Peruvian – Fujimori offered this assessment: "Well, he's undeniably a leader, no?"

After his upset election in 1990 put him in charge of a nation on the verge of chaos, Fujimori's aggressive tactics produced victories and human and institutional casualties. His shock-treatment economic plan cut inflation and spurred growth and foreign investment, though everyday Peruvians are increasingly impatient about their lot. He dealt crushing blows to dangerous terrorist groups, using Draconian laws and unleashing the military and intelligence services that are considered vital to his rule.

Critics call Fujimori a vindictive authoritarian who has weakened



Fujimori: 'I see El Nino with the eyes of an engineer. That's how I operate: with coldness, with logic.' (AP)

democracy by abusing power, first with a shutdown of Congress in 1992 and again last year, when his legislative majority ousted high court justices in the wake of a ruling that made it more difficult for him to run for a third term as president. His approval ratings sank to record lows – in the 20s – because of that scandal and others involving alleged persecution of opponents.

In a human-rights report released in February, the US State Department expressed concern about physical abuses and spying by security forces and the "perception of an organized campaign of intimidation" against the media.

But Fujimori's response to El Nino's devastation has been a breakneck marathon of trips to direct disaster prevention and relief that has driven his popularity back up to 45 percent in polls.

Fujimori is exploiting El Nino, opponents claim, to advance a third election bid in 2000. (He has yet to declare his candidacy.)

"The El Nino phenomenon has not paralyzed this race for re-election. In fact, the disaster is being taken advantage of for this very purpose," said lawmaker Anel Townsend. "I think there is an awareness on the part of the population that could be a boomerang against the president."

Fujimori retorted: "Let them keep talking." His defenders say he has always operated this way, barnstorming across the nation. They say he has to take charge because the presidency controls the power and the budget in centralized Peru. He has spent months warning about El Nino and enacting a $150 million infrastructure and preparedness program.

"I don't see El Nino with the eyes of a president," he said. "I see it with the eyes of an engineer. That's how I operate: with coldness, with logic, like an engineer." Fujimori's travels are typically wild rides with minimal pomp and circumstance. He picks destinations on a moment's notice. His bodyguards and flight attendants are on 24-hour call and often have no idea where they will spend the night.

His security team consists of crew-cut plainclothes officers armed with short Israeli-made machine guns. They scramble frantically into crowds behind Fujimori, who appears remarkably unconcerned about being a target.

Otherwise, there is little buffer between Fujimori and the public or the traveling media corps. A rare civilian adviser accompanying the president on the recent trip was former Agriculture Minister Absalom Vasquez, one of the few presidential confidants.

"I'm an engineer too, so I know how he thinks," Vasquez said.

Despite his unassuming manner, commentators describe Vasquez as a top strategist for Fujimori's widely anticipated third candidacy.

Fujimori visited a swarming ridge-top slum where flood waters had engulfed an adjoining cemetery and emptied 123 graves, subjecting the people of Trujillo to a real-life apparition: their dead relatives floating down the street in the suits and Sunday dresses in which they had been buried.

The president gave a short speech promising loans to rebuild damaged homes. His listeners reacted appreciatively. But slum dwellers such as Berta Mendoza expressed wait-and-see sentiments. Mendoza stood on the edge of the crowd with her daughter, a girl with a beautiful face and open sores on her bare feet.

"People support him," Mendoza said softly. "But they want to see what he is going to do. Even before the floods, we don't have anything. Look how we live here."

It is difficult to evaluate the administration's response to El Nino because the debate is so politicized. Some local officials declare that the president has ignored their valuable input, such as technical studies.

"We worked day and night, at 100 kilometers an hour, to present our mitigation plan," Jose Guevara, an engineering adviser to the Ica emergency response center, complained in the magazine *Caretas*. "[The authorities] told us [their] hands were tied because the approval and the budget came from the presidential palace." On the other hand, Ica's mayor lauded the president and condemned his adversaries during an airport news conference. Fujimori beamed behind him.

Fujimori steadfastly declined to say whether he plans to seek another five-year term in 2000. But asked what he imagines himself being in 10 years, he answered with a chuckle and a single word: "President." (Los Angeles Times)

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Return to the Yishuv



By Naomi Doudai

This revival of the *Bustan* (1970) over a quarter of a century later conjures up ghosts of a proud community and its rich and picturesque cultural past. Samech Tetim (Sefaradim Tehorim) was the sobriquet for those pure Sephardim. Direct descendants of the exiled victims of the Spanish Inquisition, they have resided in the Holy Land for over 15 generations.

BUSTAN SFARADI

By Yitzhak Navon
Directed by Tsadi Tzarfati
Habimah Theater

This tribute to the Yishuv is a fitting contribution to Habimah's celebration of the jubilee.

Set in a quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, this production is burdened with a gloomy set (Erez Yaniv) but brightened by a feast of traditional choral music (Yehudit Ravitz) and a few outstanding performances. Chief among these is Ya'acov Cohen's versatile projection of the narrator-hero of the piece, Moshoniko. Uri Banai in the minor role of Ben-Zion is something to remember too.

However, with Ruby Porat Shuval, an elegant and richly evocative Sultana; Dafna Armoni, an irresistible singing Luna; and Galit Giat, tempestuous as the tragic Victoria, it is the women that outshine the men.

Dance routines, choral numbers, musical accompaniment, and direction in general, are uneven. Solo renderings of the old *romanzeros* in the original Ladino are, on the other hand, very moving. A more generous use of that ancient Spanish dialect might have given greater veracity and verisimilitude to the scenario. As it stands, it sometimes smacks of atrophy, of a resurrected past imprisoned in shades of saccharine sentiment and haunting memory. For all that, a sense of genuine fiesta pervades what is on the whole a stirring production.

THE VIRGIN OF LUDMIR

By Yosefa Even-Shoshan
Directed by Ofira Hoenig
The Khan Theater, Jerusalem

BASED on an 18th-century tale, this play depicts the life of a Jewish woman whose overwhelming passion for learning and religious dedication sentences her to a life of famished femininity, sexual frigidity and emotional aridity. In a sense a throwback to grandmothers and great-grandmothers whose lives were darkened by the male-imposed ban on female participation in intellectual or spiritual activity, it has implacable relevance as a historic precedent to the struggle of contemporary women in those fields.

Hanna-Rachel, the protagonist, ignores the prohibition of the male-dominated shtetl society. Forgoing marriage, children, and domestic bliss in order to achieve her goal, she becomes an ascetic with a "court" of dedicated disciples. But once achieved, success is brutally and tragically denied her by the bigotry and fanaticism of male-oriented opposition.

As in *Anna Galactia*, the theme is powerfully realized thanks to Ofira Hoenig's inspired direction, not the least of which derives from her aesthetic use of the Khan's natural architectonic dimensions.

Likewise inspired is the cast of the Khan, achieving heights rarely seen on this stage. In this, a woman's piece, it is the female roles that excel. If Gili Ben-Ozilio's protagonist is more wooden than soulful, her female followers stand out in secondary roles.

Katya Zimbrice, a bizarre, barefoot, Giraud-like figure in a tattered wedding dress (by Frieda Klapholtz-Avrahami), gives a flamboyant study of an agonized and agonizing deserted wife. Yael Berenfeld, Tamara Dayan and Naomi Fromovitch deliver exquisite vignettes too. But towering above them all is Aliza Rosen with a beggarwoman played in mute, poignant, and poetic undertones that almost steal the show.

Yigal Sadeh, leading off the male roles, is strong if at times overstrung as the rejected bridegroom. Touching too are Avinoam Mor-Haim, somber and stately as the Holy Hassidic Maggid, Yehoyachim Friedlander, appealing as an abandoned husband, Bassam Zu'omot benign as the permissive father. Motti Katz, naively sincere as a simple shomemaker, and Aryeh Tchemer, a brawny blacksmith, the heroine's final mate and ultimate nemesis, complete a superb cast.

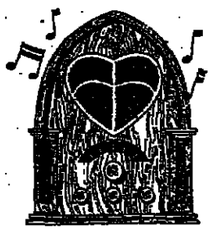


Rockers return

Seventies supergroup Kaveret is reuniting for a single gig in Hayarkon Park in Tel Aviv on March 28. The band, whose members have found varying degrees of success on their own in the past 25 years, got back together in 1984 and again in 1990. The reason for the reunion? 'They missed each other,' says the band's PR agent, Miri Ben-Yosef. Back row from left: Yoni Rechter, Alon Oleartchick, producer Yehuda Talit, Ephraim Shamir and Michal Reiss of the sponsors, Tnuva. Front row from left: Yitzhak Klepfer, Tnuva CEO Arik Raichman, Danny Sanderson and Gidi Gov. Meir Fenigstein was not available for the photo-op but will join his former colleagues for the concert. (Tsvi Jerusalem Post Staff)

Ray of hope for Madonna

In Tune



By David Brinn

RAY OF LIGHT - Madonna (Hed Arzi)

CHUPACABRA - Imani Coppola (NMC)

Madonna is such a cultural icon that it has often been difficult to separate the pop-culture persona from the musical artist. With the release of *Ray of Light*, her first album in four years, that distinction is made clear once and for all.

Her most masterful statement since 1988's *Like a Prayer*, the electro-modern *Ray of Light* is musically exciting in a way that Madonna has never been and signifies a giant leap in artistry for the material girl.

The leadoff track "Drowned World/Substitute for Love" is a startling reflection on fame. And it works much the same way as John Lennon's landmark "God" on his *Plastic Ono Band* album from 1970. While Lennon recited a litany of icons he no longer believed in, Madonna likewise counts off lists of her life's frivolity and throws them away in exchange for love, apparently that of her toddler daughter.

Trite? Maybe, but the excitement here derives from her conviction, which matches that of any major contemporary artist.



Imani Coppola rescues rap from heavy-handed gangstas.

Which is not to say that motherhood has turned Madonna into Janis Ian.

Her usual frothy pop has been beefed up, plugged in and electrified by William Orbit, one of the godfathers of the electronica movement. While rockers like U2 have tried to embrace elements of '90s dance music with mixed results, the mix works like magic for Madonna because she was always naturally drawn on the dance beat.

The title song is an exhilarating, awe-inspiring performance, with bubbling undercurrents of galloping synthesizer competing with the metallic guitars but ultimately no match for Madonna's possessed, wailing repetition of the lines "And I feel/Like I just got home."

From those highlights, the descent to the rest of the disc is gentle, with many of the tunes like the first single, "Frozen," sounding like they would fit nicely into the straight dance formats of her previous pop forays. Longtime collaborator Patrick Leonard provides the link on a number of songs from her pop past to the more adventurous Orbit future.

The maturity displayed here is something the pre-Evita, premama Madonna never showed. The delight in *Ray of Light* is hearing her struggling to find herself, a journey that only the most accomplished rockers over the years have been able to allow us to join. The chances that Madonna will be remembered for her music rather than her body has increased dramatically.

A full interview with Madonna will appear in Thursday's Jerusalem Post.

FEEL-GOOD rap? You may not have thought it possible. But this debut disc by college sophomore Imani Coppola zooms out of left field to become one of the most entertaining and satisfying pop discs of the winter.

Chupacabra contains a rich pastiche of rock, rap and pop loaded to the brim with witty lyrics delivered in a buoyant, non-threatening musical voice that single-handedly rescues rap from the heavy-handed gangstas.

Like that other cultural scavenger, Beck, Coppola doesn't distinguish between musical styles but joyously absconds with all of them. The dizzying blur of cultural and musical samples, ranging from Donovan's "Sunshine Superman" to The Doors' "Soul Kitchen" never fail to stimulate and surprise.

The kitchen-sink blend includes Coppola's own country fiddle, Broadway show tunes, '60s girl groups and more conventional singer-songwriter rock. Even when the novelty wears off, the quality of the music remains.

"Legends of a Cowgirl," the big MTV hit, is representative of the playful yet intoxicating style the exotic-looking but Long Island-bred Coppola conveys.

"In Tune" is still investigating if there's a family connection to the famed film director Francis Ford Coppola. But even if it turns out that Uncle Francis finagled a recording contract for his young niece, it's obvious that one listen to her music would have been just as convincing as a horse's head in the bed.

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Arab Theater loses top staff

Yussuf Abu Warda, artistic director of The Arab Theater in Israel, resigned last week following the board's refusal to fire ATI administrator Iyad Salaiymeh. ATI's board accepted Abu Warda's resignation and announced that Salaiymeh's contract, which has expired, will not be renewed. ATI board chairman Dr. Fahid Abu Khadra said last week that both posts had been put out to tender in the Arabic-language press. One of those mentioned to replace Abu Warda is actor Makram Khouri.

The board expects to reach a decision by March 15. Meanwhile activity at the theater has been suspended. Established with great expectations in 1995, ATI has gone into debt, and has had difficulty in attracting audiences. "Ours is not a theater going public," said Abu-Khadra. "We have to explain and persuade with every new production."

He admitted that the theater has a deficit of some NIS 400,000. *ATI's current budget is NIS 2.3 million and "we will have to economize and pay the debt."* Abu Warda was not available for comment.

Double plaudits for Kibbutz Dance Company...

Not only has the Kibbutz Dance Company been getting rave reviews from New York's picky dance critics for its performances of Rami Beer's *Aide Memoire*, but it was able to celebrate Judith Arnon's Israel Prize for Dance at a public ceremony in which Arnon received the Jubilee Medal from Rafi Gamzu, Israeli cultural attaché in the city. KDC is on a jubilee tour of the US and will dance at the Kennedy Center in Washington. KDC then goes on to Chicago and other US and Canadian cities.

... And qualified raves for Batsheva

Like KDC, Batsheva Dance is participating in the month-long Art of the State salute to Israel's jubilee, and Ohad Naharin's *Anaphase* (1993) was the opening work at the Kennedy Center on March 2. *The Washington Post* cheered the work. *The New York Times* owned that the audience was utterly captivated, and then, somewhat snobbishly, said that true dance mavens had seen it all before.

Dancer Kim Itoh: This time for sure

Japanese dancer/choreographer Kim Itoh and his four-member Glorious Future are coming after all, in April. Itoh, who was to have performed locally from March 1 to 5, canceled at the last minute because of the Iraq crisis. He is bringing two provocative works, *Anata* and *Dead and Alive*, which combine butoh, Japan's avant-garde and introspective dance form, with contemporary Western dance disciplines. There will be only two performances, at the Jerusalem Theater and at Jaffa's Noga Theater on April 8 and 9, respectively. Ticket holders may use them for the new dates

Hold on to your hats!

Europark, one of Europe's largest mobile amusement parks, is here from Holland. It has everything it ought to have, including bumper cars, a ferris wheel, a haunted house, stomach-churning rides like the Tornado, sideshows, a house of mirrors, a carousel, barkers, music, lights, the lot. Currently it's in Ashkelon through March 13 at the football grounds, then it moves to Lod until March 28, and from there to Jerusalem's Sacher Park from April 4-19. Other venues include Haifa, Beersheba, Ashdod and Karmiel. It ends back up at Sacher Park from August 12–31.

Jazz returns to Beit Lessin

Saxophonist Shlomi Goldenberg and his Little Big Band celebrate the return of the Beit Lessin Jazz club with Journey into Rhythm, an ongoing series of concerts exploring the different sounds, yet common roots, of jazz, featuring prominent local and visiting musicians. The high point this month is the multimedia The Soul of Jazz in which Goldenberg joins forces with acclaimed composer/drummer Bob Moses from the US, as well as local performers such as Elisheva and Shevakia Bat-Israel. (The series even has its own website at www/geocities.com/~salami-gang) It begins March 16 at Beit Lessin through March 23, with a performance March 21 at Confederation House in Jerusalem. Thereafter, Jazz Club, with guest artists, will take place every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

Shankar and Shankar

Ravi Shankar, arguably the world's greatest sitar player, will give two concerts at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv on July 2 and 6. Anoushka, his 17-year-old daughter, will be with him on stage; the proud father speaks of his child as "bearer of the flame." The tabla player is Bikram Ghosh. Shankar is practically a household name worldwide and not only for his exquisite interpretations of the classical Indian ragas. He has also collaborated musically with such artists as the Beatles and Sir Yehudi Menuhin, who has said of Shankar that "his genius and humanity can only be compared with that of Mozart." The sitarist who began his career at age 10 is now 77.

Romanesca Trio goes to extremes

CONCERT ROUNDUP

By Uzi Eppstein

Two opposite poles of Early Baroque music – extreme intimacy and showy virtuosity – were displayed in the Romanesca Trio's program as well as in their performance in the Authentica series.

The Italian-inspired Austrian-German style of Kapsberger, Schmelzer, Biber and Walther was presented in all its dazzling brilliance. Andrew Manze's violin dominated with breathtaking technical *tours de force* in the sonatas, while taking every opportunity to decrease the volume to bewitching, almost inaudibly soft passages. Nigel North's theorbo solo, a Toccata by Kapsberger, demonstrated this rarely encountered instrument's sonorousness and delicate tones.

The nobly restrained English style of Gibbons, Locke and Daniel Purcell conjured up the introverted atmosphere of music-making by a "consort of several friends." In Gibbons's Fantasia for harpsichord solo, John Toll displayed utmost subtlety and refined musical taste.

AUTHENTICA SERIES

Romanesca Early Baroque Chamber Music
Jerusalem Theater
February 28

HAYDN'S rarely performed cantata *Berenice* attracted much interest at the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 4. French soloist Sophie Koch has a rich, resounding mezzo-soprano, though apparently it is still in the developing stages. The traces of instability made her voice sound muffled at times.

German conductor Thomas Hengelbrock brought to Mozart's Symphony No. 25 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 invigorating energy, freshness and lucidity of the kind that one does not frequently encounter in standard performances of these works. Beethoven's slow opening was carefully and gradually developed to an explosively climactic transition to the first fast movement.

The short but significant solos, particularly the flute, soared enchantingly. The conductor's clear concept of the works was realized with elan and incisive articulation.

JSO

Works by Haydn, Mozart & Beethoven
Jerusalem Theater
February 25

Local girl makes good in Hollywood

By TOM TUGEND

Michele Ohayon was nursing her two-month-old baby at 5:45 a.m. on February 10, when the phone rang with the announcement that her documentary film, *Colors Straight Up*, had been nominated for an Academy Award.

At that point, if Michele Ohayon were shooting a movie of her own life, she would probably flash back to Casablanca, where she was born 38 years ago, and then to 1965, when her family emigrated from Morocco to Israel.

Other flashbacks would show her in her first job as assistant editor with Israel Television at age 17, and her first professional recognition as a Tel Aviv University student for her short film *Pressure*, the love story of an Arab boy and a Jewish girl.

Cutting back to the present, she talks about the genesis of *Colors Straight Up*. It was 1992 and she had spent four years directing and producing her first feature-length documentary about homeless women, *It Was a Wonderful Life*.

When the LA riots exploded that year, Ohayon was shaken by the condemnation of the black teenage rioters and decided to see for herself.

She discovered, at Jordan High School in Watts, an after-school performing and visual arts program called Living Literature/Colors United. Through the program, African-American and Latino teenagers were finding a refuge from the mean streets of drugs and gang shootings in daily rehearsals under the tough-love discipline of a white and a black director.

The centerpiece of Ohayan's film is the group's gradual evolution of the musical *Watts Side Story*, based on *Romeo and Juliet*, by way of *West Side Story*. The end result is a 93-minute documentary of unblinking – and at times almost unbearable – honesty, in which the camera is somehow in the face and unobtrusive at the same time.

Colors Straight Up has already garnered eight national awards at various film festivals.

The documentary's sensitive photography is the work of respected Dutch cinematographer Theo Van de Sande (*Assault, Crossing Delancey, Wayne's World*). Ohayon's husband.

Ohayon believes she is the first Israeli to be nominated for an "American" Academy Award, outside the best foreign film category. Among her tough competitors are Spike Lee's *4 Little Girls*, about the civil rights struggle, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center's *The Long Way Home*, chronicling the desperate attempts of Europe's Holocaust survivors to reach the Jewish homeland.

The nomination itself has already raised her stock in Hollywood. "Where I might have been 10th on a list of possible directors for a project, now I'm close to the top," she says.

Currently, Ohayon has lined up two possible feature-film deals with Paramount and MGM. Closer to her heart, though, is a script she has carried around for over 10 years, entitled *Homeland*. "It's the story of the illegal Jewish immigration from North Africa to Palestine. "It was just as dramatic as the story of *Exodus*, but nobody knows about it. I've pitched the story to Jewish executives here, and they had no idea that so many people from North Africa are living in Israel."

Ohayon's father was deeply involved in bringing Jews from Morocco to Palestine, so "in a sense, *Homeland* will be a fictionalized family story, a tribute to my parents."

'Fella' leaves Beersheba audience humming

MUSICAL REVIEW

By Mor Stein

The acting, singing, and dancing were bright and involved in this revival of a popular 1950s Broadway musical. A contingent of young thespians augmented the veteran English-speaking music theater group which has been performing for 17 seasons.

The star, Rosa Howden, also choreographed the show's rousing dance routines. Ed Spitz is completely convincing as the aging Italian immigrant *fella* who falls in love with a young San Francisco waitress and invites her to his farm to marry. Arlene Gilboa lent style to the role of her best friend Cleo. The three chefs (Dov Lanzman, Arnold Gross and Alan Cohen) were delightful.

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA

By Frank Loesser
Light Opera Group of the Negev
Heichal Hatarbut, Beersheba
March 5

The production was its best in big chorus numbers like "Big D" when the entire cast of over 40 came onstage to sing their hearts out.

Meir Vardi's generally good direction was at times heavy-handed. Not enough attention was spent on lighting and sound, technical details that detracted from the sets and the capable musical direction of David Waldman.

All in all, the production is convivial and authentic, a slice of Americana that leaves the audience humming

THE JERUSALEM POST

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No to jubilee amnesty

In a rare instance of harmony, the president, the Justice Ministry, numerous MKs, and the Labor Party have all come out against a general amnesty for criminals in conjunction with the state's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The consensus is that a general amnesty is not in the cards, but that is not the question. The real question is: What does releasing criminals have to do with a national celebration?

This week, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, State Attorney Edna Arbel, and President Ezer Weizman's legal adviser Aviva Gitai met to discuss the issue of a special jubilee year pardon. As noted, the consensus was against legislating a general pardon.

Yet the statement issued by the Justice Ministry after the meeting left the door open a crack. The issue of pardons should be addressed "by means of the president's pardon authority, in a manner that appropriately expresses the national jubilee year," it said. No mention was made of setting up a special committee to review cases or set criteria for pardons.

This concept was rightly rejected by Weizman a month ago, on the grounds that any such committee, even if set up to be as independent as possible, would be subject to political pressures.

Evidently, the nation will be spared the most dangerous forms of the amnesty concept – a legislated amnesty or a high-profile committee that sets broad criteria for pardons.

But in the meantime, the Justice Ministry is apparently gearing up to implement the anticipated "appropriate expression" for the jubilee year. The Justice Ministry and the president's office are reportedly contemplating the hiring of some 20 additional staffers to review the cases of the 6,300 non-security criminals currently in jail.

It is at this point that the vehement, justified and widespread opposition to a general amnesty should be remembered.

As Weizman said, "I do not know any country which has freed murderers, rapists and drug pushers for a jubilee. We certainly don't want wholesale amnesty, which would have negative effects on the rule of law and on the fabric of society."

Despite this, Weizman refuses to rule out a less-than-wholesale increase in pardons connected to the jubilee. Weizman has yet to explain why the release of large numbers of criminals on an "individual" basis would not also cause damage to the "rule of law and the fabric of society."

Though Weizman is thought of as being strongly against such pardons, he has not said anything as categorical as MK Shaul Amor, who reportedly said, when he was running for president, "I don't believe there is any, nor should there be any, linkage between clemency and Israel's jubilee year.

Two previous amnesties, in 1949 and 1967, led immediately to an increase in the crime rate. Then, too, the amnesties were supposed to have excluded "serious" criminals, but a study conducted after the 1967 amnesty found that 75 percent of those pardoned had committed crimes again within five years of their release.

There is no reason why justice demands that criminals be released on the state's 50th anniversary any more than in the 49th or the 51st. The whole idea of an amnesty connected to an occasion is a government-sanctioned slap in the face to its own justice system. If any criminal receives an unjust sentence, is inadequately represented, or is somehow mistreated by the justice system, such injustices should be addressed every year, on an ongoing basis.

In fact, both the Justice Ministry and the president's office regularly consider requests for clemency. Since, as the saying goes, justice delayed is justice denied, there may be room for adding staff to speed up the process.

But the criteria being used currently should not be changed one iota "in honor" of the jubilee year. Even the small, symbolic step of accelerating the consideration of pardons risks giving the principle of celebratory clemency more credence than it deserves.

The debate over the amnesty issue has already stained Israeli democracy by raising suspicions that MKs are more concerned about their friends' pending court cases than with unjustly punished petty criminals. When the president meets again on this, the best contribution he could make to the jubilee would be to permanently sever the connection between celebrating events and releasing criminals, so that the idea does not return to haunt other anniversaries in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROUD OF WEIZMAN

Sir, – Jonathan Rosenblum writes (Feb. 27) that the president should symbolize the people he represents, which is as it should be. He says that in spite of all his good qualities Weizman does not do so. I beg to differ.

I think Weizman really represents a young nation in his behavior towards the people he represents. He is one of the people – he can walk among Jews and Arabs without a posse of body guards and no one would attack him. In fact he is liked by all, even if at times he says something he shouldn't.

He has earned respect wherever he has gone outside Israel. The Queen invited him, as did King Hussein, Bill Clinton, Mubarak and others.

We should be proud of him, not belittle his achievements.

TESS TOISTER

Haifa.

END PREJUDICE

Sir, – "National service girls will be entitled to free bus travel on intercity lines, just like women soldiers." (Feb. 27)

Why are females in the national service labelled "girls" while females in the army are called "women?" Presumably, they are of the same age, and thus this loudly states a depreciation and devaluation of the national service.

One could easily foresee an international outcry had you written a sentence about 18-year-old Arab girls and 18-year-old Jewish women or about 18-year-old black girls and 18-year-old white women.

Prejudice against religious Jews should be stamped out by other Jews, at least on par with removing prejudice against another race or religion.

JULIE ARNOWITZ

Jerusalem.

A MORE JEWISH STATE

Sir, – Thank you for your editorial and op-ed on the new developments in the political religious camp. (Feb. 25) I was one of the 17,000 who voted for Meimad when they first tried to enter the Knesset. Although I was disappointed then, I plan to vote for Meimad again.

We know that there is a considerable public need for a mature socially conscious Jewish response to the many challenges of modernity in our lives and in our Jewish state. I hope that with their collective wisdom, Meimad will be able to contribute to a greater respect for Jews and Judaism here.

I hope that Meimad will also support the variety of Jewish practice which is struggling to find legitimate expressions to the questions of identity which are becoming increasingly critical at this time in our country.

If it can do that, it will perform an important role in the emergence of a state more Jewish, more compassionate, more concerned for justice and for the sanctity of all creation.

YORAM GETZLER
Association for Jewish Renewal in Israel

Moshav Aminadav.

Sir, – Does *The Jerusalem Post* pay Jonathan Rosenblum for the trash you unfortunately find necessary to print too often?

I've subscribed to the International Edition for quite a while. I usually enjoy reading differing opinions – even when I disagree – but Rosenblum's overly biased, narrow-minded, insulting diatribes make me question the value of my subscription.

ROBERT TERK

West Haven, Connecticut.

MEN'S BLAME

Sir, – In response to Susan Hattis Rolef's article "Who's to blame?" dated January 27, I agree without a doubt that the violent men themselves are to blame and are responsible for their violent behavior, but if laws protecting women and children from domestic violence were made and upheld by those in positions of authority to do so, then these violent men would get the message that their behavior is intolerable and inexcusable. Unfortunately their behavior is excused by judges who send violent husbands and fathers back into the home so as 'not to break up the family unit or take away the family's means of financial support,' and by policemen/policewomen who 'arrive late, and don't really want to get involved in a "family matter."' Therefore, violent men too often get the message that their violent behavior is excusable and continue in their severely damaging deadly pattern of abuse.

There is a seriously urgent need for education against violence and it begins with the very young. There have been several articles in our local newspapers regarding the growing violence in our schools and I feel very strongly that every school in this country needs to provide a proper program to teach our children not only that violent behavior is a crime, but also that they need not be quiet victims of this horrible crime. Sorry, Susan, but it is fair to blame the proper authorities for the participation in the continuing and growing domestic violence that exists today.

SHARON FRIED

Degania Aleph.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 10, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from London that Sir Philip Cunliffe Lister, the Colonial Secretary, delivered an enthusiastic address on Palestine in which he said that the country's prosperity was not only relative to the rest of the world, but was so in an absolute sense. He hoped that successful economic cooperation would allay political suspicion between Jew and Arab.

50 years ago: On March 10, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Jewish sector of Jerusalem was deprived of all postal delivery services as a result of the theft of six Post Office vans by the Irgun Zva'i Leumi.

Alexander Zvielli



A tasty red herring

YOSSI BEILIN

When Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu declared that he was embracing the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, many said that it was not really a policy change, but a desire to distract the public from the stalemate in the peace process.

There is some basis for this argument. After all, Resolution 425 differs from the famous Resolution 242. Resolution 242 demands the withdrawal of Israeli troops from territory captured in 1967, but at the same time calls for all the states in the region to recognize Israel's right to live in peace and security. Resolution 425, on the other hand, is one-sided.

To fulfill Resolution 242, you need partners. To fulfill 425, you just have to get out of Lebanon.

So the minute Netanyahu starts to set conditions for our withdrawal, he is changing the substance of the resolution, and is likely to lead to a situation whereby without Syrian President Assad's agreement, we will not withdraw.

The right way to leave Lebanon is to implement the Security Council resolution while building a framework that we could call "back-to-back." Our withdrawal would have to be characterized as unilateral, i.e., not dependent on any agreement with Lebanon or Syria – since, if we were able to reach any kind of agreement with Syria, no one would be talking about 425, and we would be withdrawing from Lebanon in the framework of such an agreement.

Instead, we would withdraw while maintaining the understandings reached following the Grapes of Wrath operation in April 1996. These understandings forbid attacks on civilians, allow for military responses in self-defense if the understandings are breached, and establish a monitoring mechanism with the participation of the US, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

At the same time, we would have to know in advance that other parties would also be taking unilateral actions: deploying the Lebanese Army in the south; promising that in areas under Lebanese Army control Hizbullah would be forbidden to operate; and deploying an augmented UNIFIL force along the international border – a force that would have a mandate to act against rogue armed elements in the region. We would need to know that the US will threaten to boycott Syria – as it currently boycotts Iran, Iraq and Libya – if Syria is found to be behind any attack on Israel after the IDF withdraws.

All these things, however, would not be part of any formal agreement with Israel. They can and must be presented as decisions by the UN, the US, and Lebanon, that result from Israel's willingness to leave Lebanon on the basis of the Security Council resolution.

Israel, for its part, will have to solve the problem of the South Lebanese Army by, among other options, allowing anyone who feels he must leave Lebanon to come live with us, until true peace prevails between the two countries. Israel will also have to set up technologically advanced security systems along the border fence, and deploy the IDF south of the international border.

If this process is presented as unilateral but implemented on a "back-to-back" basis, it has a real chance to put an end to the ongoing nightmare of the Lebanese quagmire. It was the late Yitzhak Rabin who described our involvement in Lebanon thus, but he, too, did not succeed in getting us out of there.

IS Netanyahu going to be the one to extricate us from this trap, 16 years after Ariel Sharon pushed us into it? There's room for doubt. It could be that he sees Lebanon as an outlet, in a situation where The Third Way doesn't allow serious negotiations with Syria and the National Religious Party doesn't allow him to proceed with the Palestinians. But it's possible that a positive dynamic will be established, and that Netanyahu will find himself leading a process in which many elements have an interest: the Lebanese government, the Lebanese Army, the UN, and elements in the US and Europe. It could be that what began as a red herring will, within a short time, turn into a substantive diplomatic accomplishment.

So I don't suggest we examine Netanyahu's motives too carefully. From the moment he expressed his support for implementing Resolution 425, there is no turning back. Rather than pouring cold water over his initiative by saying it isn't serious, it would be better for anyone who wants to leave Lebanon to offer support and encouragement to these new developments.

Leaving Lebanon is a far smaller risk than the price we will pay by staying there. Leaving Lebanon means greater security for the residents of the North, who will no longer have to pay the price for the ongoing friction between the IDF and Hizbullah. Leaving Lebanon means that calm will return to many Israeli homes, where hearts now skip a beat every time the phone rings.

If Netanyahu is the one who brings us this salvation, he will deserve our blessings.

The writer is a Labor MK.

Arafat's children

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

At the height of the most recent US-Iraq crisis last month, Palestinian students marched through various cities of the West Bank and Gaza, burning American and Israeli flags and chanting, "Beloved Saddam, destroy Tel Aviv" and "Powerful Saddam, strike with chemical weapons."

We Americans are largely inured to the loathsome depths of the anti-American and anti-Israel agitation among the Palestinians. But these demonstrations must not pass unremarked. When the elite of Palestinian youth call for the mass murder of Jews – by gassing, no less – attention must be paid.

This cannot be dismissed as the expression of a few extremists.

According to the Palestinians' own polls, 77 percent of all Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza support Saddam attacking Israel with missiles in the event of an American attack on Iraq.

And considering what the dictatorship run by Yasser Arafat teaches in the schools and through the controlled press, what can you expect?

Consider this from *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, the official newspaper of Arafat's Palestinian Authority, on the subject of "plots of aggression against Iraq and Palestine": "Netanyahu's face clings to Clinton's, and in between are people like Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, Albright and Cohen who are all – surprise, surprise – Zionist Jews." It would be hard to concoct a sentence that contains a slimier mixture of anti-American and antisemitic caricatures.

The article, however, goes on to do exactly that. It draws, for example, the larger lesson on the nature of the Jews: "...a fraction of humankind – perceiving themselves to be of unique descent chosen by Allah to rule the world – spell doom for all nations on earth, emanating from [their] superiority complex, a complex of

The PA leader has raised a generation so well-schooled in hatred of 'Judeo-Nazis' that it calls openly for genocide

if Jews were permitted entry into the US, they would take over the country's resources within a hundred years and... tyrannize the American people who would become subservient to them... Doesn't the American administration embody Franklin's prophecy these days?" (This old and vicious forgery appeared in 1935 in German in the Nazis' "Handbook on the Jewish Question.")

WHY is this revolting propaganda important? Because the central idea of the Oslo Accords was step-by-step reconciliation between Arab and Jew: Israel would gradually give back territory, testing as it went the sincerity of Palestinian pledges to peace and coexistence.

Israel has accordingly made three extremely significant withdrawals.

As a result, the occupation is over: 98 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza live under Arafat.

And what do Israelis find on the other side? That Arafat has raised a generation so thoroughly schooled in hatred of "Judeo-Nazis" – infiltrating, controlling the new Nazism and the new racist Aryan race."

This staple PLO teaching – Jews as Nazis – is followed by a history lesson: "This spells doom for the US itself, as was exhorted by the American president Benjamin Franklin [sic] who... claimed that

and dooming the world – that it calls openly for genocide.

Some coexistence, some peace. Just last month, in fact, Arafat threatened to "cross out" Oslo and begin the violence all over again.

What, then, is the US administration's plan for rescuing a peace process so subverted by PLO hate-and warmongering? Pressure Israel, of course. In what has now become a reflexive response – get humbled by Iraq, turn on Israel – the State Department is considering giving Israel an ultimatum to make a fourth territorial withdrawal in return for yet another round of Arafat promises (to cease anti-Israel propaganda, to embrace nonviolence, to change the Palestinian Charter calling for the extermination of Israel, etc., etc.).

Netanyahu and his government are rightly prepared to say no. They are willing to make a fourth withdrawal, but only after Arafat delivers on the promises he made the first three times.

Moreover, Netanyahu is prepared to make a final settlement with Arafat, involving a final Israeli withdrawal, in return for a final peace and final borders. Arafat is resisting making such a deal. Why? He prefers to get the land for free. How? Let Albright deliver Israel. Let her pressure Netanyahu into another land-for-nothing deal.

Which is where Clinton comes in. He can override the State Department's instincts and send Arafat a message: We will not deliver Israel; only you can do that. Land for peace, not land for empty air. You can get your state, your flag, your independence, but only by making a deal directly with Israel and living up to your commitments. You might start by teaching your young that the gassing of Jews is something not to be cheered.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Barak and Hamas

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

In a weekend interview with Gideon Levy on TV Channel 3, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak was asked what he would do if he was a Palestinian. He stated: "If I were a young Palestinian, it is possible that I would join a terrorist organization."

After giving his answer, Barak – who fought terror for many years – added that this was an unfair question since terrorist organizations act in a base, inhuman manner, and engage in the killing of innocent citizens, women and children.

As one might have expected, Barak's words caused quite a storm. Right-wingers accused him of encouraging young Palestinians to join Hamas; members of the Labor Party sighed that their chairman still had a lot to learn about avoiding certain types of public statements because they are liable to be taken out of context; one of the Palestinian delivery boys at my local supermarket said to me: "I hear Barak said he would join Hamas...."

Even before the interview was actually broadcast, word of Barak's remark got into the media, and he was asked to comment. "What did you expect me to say in response to this question?" he asked. "That if I were a young Palestinian, I would become a third-grade teacher?"

He added that quite a few Israeli statesmen, including former Likud prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, had said similar things in the past.

I can bear witness that at least with regards to Shamir, Barak is right. I was present when Shamir made the following statement (in English) in an interview with British Conservative Lord Bethell, several days after the Likud victory in the May 1977 election, in response to the question whether he thought that the killing of Lord Moyne by the Lehi, back in 1942, had helped the Jewish cause:

The Labor leader's words are an encouraging sign regarding his attitude towards the future of the peace process with the Palestinians

"Without doubt. It's not quite the same thing, but take the case of the Palestinians. Ten years ago (i.e. in 1967) nobody in the world spoke about Palestinians, about a Palestinian people, about a Palestinian state. Now there's quite a consensus in the US, in Europe that there is a Palestinian question, a Palestinian people, a Palestinian movement for independence. And (president) Carter says that they must be given a homeland. What happened in these 10 years?

"This is why I think killing Lord Moyne helped the Jewish cause," Shamir continued. "You must keep within certain limits. For instance, with us (the Lehi) the limits were not to kill any civilians, anyone unconnected with the government. In that respect we were not like the Arab terrorists today. They attack only civilian targets."

Soon after he became prime minister, in October 1983, several quotes from the 1977 interview got into the newspapers - especially the sentence "There are times when you have to use these methods," and – as in the case of what Barak said last week – the words were taken out of context, and caused quite a storm.

But beyond the conclusion that the media is inclined to take things that politicians say out of context, and that we should therefore be careful before reaching far-reaching conclusions on the basis of its reports, I believe that Barak's words should be taken as a very encouraging sign regarding his attitude towards the future of the peace process with the Palestinians, and the likelihood of progress being made in this venue if and when he becomes prime minister.

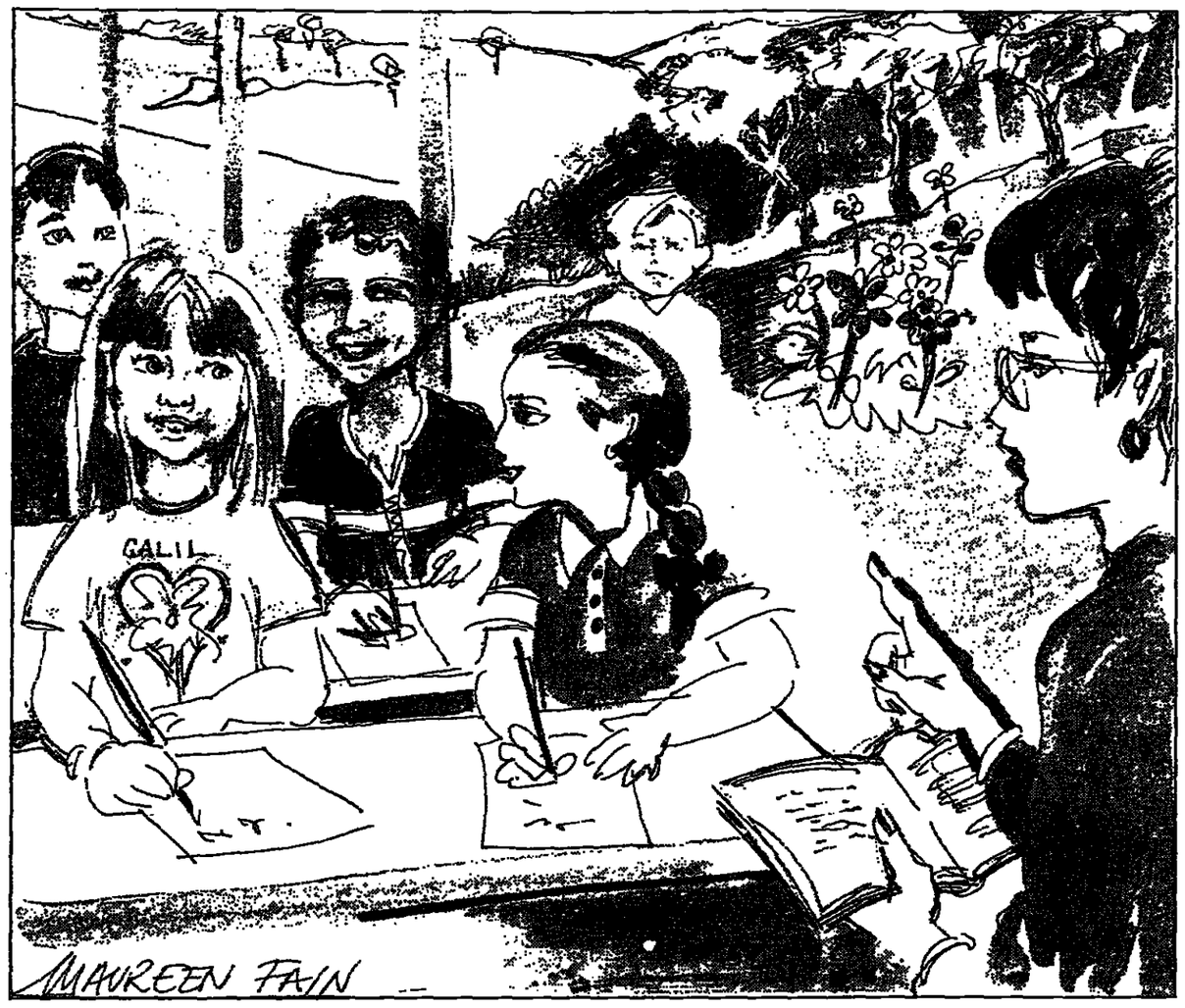
What Barak was actually saying in his interview with Gideon Levy was that he understands that in the state of frustration and hopelessness in which most Palestinian youths find themselves, joining a terrorist organization is an obvious option for those with an activist inclination, and that as a person with activist inclinations, that is probably the option he would have chosen had he been born a Palestinian.

A man who understands the connection between frustration and hopelessness on the one hand, and terror on the other, also understands that the main way to get rid of terror is to do away with this frustration and hopelessness. In other words, by conditioning progress in the peace process on the Palestinians first doing away with terror, our current leaders are placing the cart before the horse.

The writer is a political scientist.

Learning equality by living it

A countrywide network of joint Jewish-Arab schools? That's the vision in Misgav, and Dan Izenberg went up to the Galilee to hear about it



Without fanfare and at almost breakneck speed, a development of potentially historic importance is taking place in the administrative district of Misgav in western Galilee.

In a small, simply furnished meeting room in the Misgav primary school a group of local educators and the leaders of a Jerusalem-based non-profit organization are preparing to open a joint Jewish-Arab state secular primary school next year.

The organizers hope this will be the start of a network of such schools throughout the country.

In truth, it will be the second such school in Israel. One has already been operating for several years in Neveh Shalom, near Jerusalem (see box). But unlike Neveh Shalom, the school in Misgav, as its planners see it, will have government backing and be an indigenous part of its regional environment.

"You cannot live in Galilee without asking yourself what you can do for the coming generations," said Yisraela Aloni, head of the Misgav Regional Council education department. "I must do whatever possible so all the residents of the region may live together in peace. The school is our small contribution."

"We live in close proximity to our Jewish neighbors," said Kassem Abu Elhija, head of the Kaukab local council department of education. "We are always talking about values, peace, equality and so on. But if we don't live them, they will only be theoretical."

In retrospect, Misgav was a natural choice for such a school because it has a long history of Jewish-Arab educational, tourist, cultural and recreational projects, including the regional spring music and nature festival, the autumn olive-press festival and the plethora of bed-and-breakfast homes in Arab villages.

THE CATALYST for the idea is the Center for Bilingual Education in Israel – a not-for-profit organization established a few years ago by American-born Lee Gordon, a social worker and educator, and Israeli-Arab Amin Khalaf, a teacher who has devoted much time to organizing meetings between Jewish and Arab youth.

Gordon started working on the idea during his first year of studies at the School for Educational Leadership in 1995-96.

"I couldn't believe no one had thought of establishing a Jewish-Arab school before me," said Gordon. "But it turned out that people active in the area of coexistence hadn't gotten to the point of actually trying to create one."

Over the coming months, Gordon and Khalaf met with some 50 Jewish and Arab officials around the country. Originally, they had thought about establishing a school in one of the mixed cities, like Haifa. But

'You can't live in the Galilee without asking yourself what you can do for the coming generations. The school is our small contribution'

– Yisraela Aloni, head of Misgav's education department

response to the idea was cool.

During their search, Gordon and Khalaf met with the heads of 15 Arab towns and villages including Kaukab, Sakhnin, Sha'ab, Kabul, Majd el-Kurum, Kafr Yasif, Tamra, Ibillin, Tira and M'rar.

"The only place we met with less than an enthusiastic response was M'rar," said Gordon. "They told us they did a tremendous amount for coexistence, while the Jews did nothing."

On the Jewish side, they met with regional council heads and representatives of some cities including Karmiel, Acre, Jerusalem and Haifa. Most turned them away politely but unequivocally. Last November, in Misgav, Aloni swept them off their feet.

"I talked to her for 20 minutes about ideology," Gordon recalled. "At the end of it she told me I could have saved my breath. She agreed with every word."

More important, she told Gordon she had the blessing of Misgav Regional Council head Erez Kreizler. And perhaps even more important, all of them had the blessing of Doron Mor, head of the Education Ministry's northern region.

"I believe in the need for multi-existence," said Mor, who is a member of Kibbutz Merhavya, which belongs to the Kibbutz Ha'artzi movement.

"The northern district is very ethnically complex. There are secular Jews, Orthodox Jews, Moslems, Druse, Circassians, Beduin, and Falash Mura [Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity]. In this cocktail, you can't treat every sector differently."

THINGS HAVE moved swiftly since the initial meetings. Gordon and Khalaf established a project committee to plan and implement the school, including local officials and parents.

On February 15, the committee held a public meeting in Kaukab to broach the idea for the first time to the residents of the region. Over 120 people turned out to listen.

Among the speakers were Boaz Kita'in, co-principal of the Neveh Shalom elementary school, which will serve as the model for the Misgav project, and Israeli Arab Diana Shaloufi, a teacher in the Neveh Shalom school.

Although many expressed support for the school, there was some grumbling from Arabs in the audience, according to a report in the local Misgav weekly, the *Misgav Echo*.

Some of the Arabs' sentiments:

"I have the feeling that in Neveh Shalom Hebrew is the dominant language. Just because there is no other example in the country, must we assume that Neveh Shalom is a successful model?"

"Why establish the bilingual class in Misgav and not in an Arab village? The school is more suitable for Jewish rather than Arab children, because Arabs know Hebrew, but Jews don't know Arabic."

"Coexistence must be between equals. From what I know from research studies, meetings between Jews and Arabs only further polarize the sides."

"Even in this meeting, the Jewish side is the dominant one."

THE LEADERS of Sakhnin, Sha'ab and Kaukab are solidly behind the idea and encouraging parents to register their children.

"When Lee came to me with the idea, I said 'yes' without a moment's hesitation," said Hussein Kamel, head of the Sha'ab local council education department. "We strongly support the idea and have already begun holding meetings and discussions."

The minimum number of students for opening a class is 20 – half Jewish, half Arab. Officials in the Arab sector are sure they can get more than 10 students. In Misgav, though regional council officials have been canvassing parents for the past two weeks they have managed to come up with only 10 names.

Limor David, a member of the project committee and a potential parent in the new school, isn't surprised by the meager response.

"It's a new idea and not many people want to rush into something new," she said. "And although it's true that the Jews stand to gain by learning a language, they would otherwise not know, the Arabs apparently believe their children will get a better education in this school than in the ones in their community."

The Jewish response has not dampened David's enthusiasm for what the school has to offer her five-year-old son, Tomer.

"Children have a lot to gain from such a framework," she said. "Even if the school doesn't last, they will still be enriched by being bilingual, and there is the added value of learning about coexistence."

TWO WEEKS after the Kaukab meeting the organizers are beginning to have a better sense of where matters stand. In a meeting earlier this week, the committee decided to begin one class next year.

The participants also decided that parents would pay about NIS 150 per month to the school — the same sum Jewish parents pay to the Misgav elementary school, but much higher than Arab parents pay for their children's education.

The rest of the tab will be picked up by the Ministry of Education, the Center for Bilingual Education in Israel (which is funded primarily by donations from abroad), and, possibly, the local councils. For the time being, the school will not require recognition as a separate institution from the Ministry of Education.

On paper, it will be part of the Misgav state secular primary school. If it gets off the ground and a new class is added each year, the committee will ask for recognition and a facility of its own in a few years.

Nevertheless, Gordon hopes to get as much immediate financial backing as possible from the ministry for all the additional services the new school will offer – including transportation, teacher training, and computer language study programs.

Right now, Gordon is trying to arrange a meeting of all the senior Education Ministry officials who back the project and have budgets or other benefits to offer the school.

'We want the school to be recognized by local and national authorities so the children can go on to any school they want'

– Educator Lee Gordon

"We don't want to establish a marginal, partisan institution," said Gordon. "We want the school to be recognized by local and national authorities so the children can later go on to any school they want," he said.

But even as the organizers get down to the nitty-gritty problems involved in establishing a new school, Gordon is inspired by the idea behind it.

"I would like to strengthen my child's Jewish identity and at the same time be able to teach him what he has in common with the Arab child – to build a common ground, a shared civility," he said. "I believe there is room for Jews and Arabs to build this shared culture, but it does not mean watering down one's identity or promoting intermarriage.

"I'm more afraid of separation and ignorance on both sides than I am of assimilation and intermarriage. But I don't think this school will encourage assimilation and intermarriage."

According to Gordon, the school will emphasize the arts, comparative religion and languages. It will have two teachers in each class, one Arab and one Jewish. The parents will be significantly involved in the curriculum and even asked to teach from time to time. The children will visit each other's homes.

Neveh Shalom will serve as the model for Misgav, but Gordon is also studying bilingual schools in the US and picking up literature on the subject from the Internet. He hopes Misgav is just the beginning.

"We see ourselves as a main catalyst for the development of local processes throughout the country," he said. "Our goal is to build an entire network of Jewish-Arab schools."

The hope is that once this school is established, it will inspire other educators who were initially skeptical about the idea.

ONE PERSON who does not like the proposal is Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled.

In a letter to Aloni and Tami Dumai, the principal of the Misgav elementary school, Peled wrote: "Was there a preliminary discussion with the [Jewish] residents and parents of the Misgav district before the joint discussion in Kaukab? Did you consider cooperation with other populations and communities close to you, like the religious population in Moreshet or the hundreds of immigrant children in neighboring Karmiel?

"Is this kind of cooperation the top priority of the Misgav district – more important even than cooperating with the religious and the immigrants?"

Even though the organizers are not asking for Education Ministry recognition as a separate institution at this point, they prefer not to get into a public row with Peled.

"Since he is deputy minister of education I think we must take his comments into consideration," said Aloni. "It's important for us to know that an attitude like this exists. I'm sure he isn't speaking only for himself, that there is a sector of the population which feels the same way."

Commented Elhija, "Just as one has to consider religious people and immigrants, one must also take the Arabs into account.

"All of us are citizens. We must all be treated equally."

The model: Neveh Shalom

The Jewish-Arab primary school in Neveh Shalom has been in existence for 14 years and now has 120 children divided into 20 children per class from grades one to six. Only 20 of the pupils live in Neveh Shalom. The rest come from an area stretching from Lod and Ramle in the west to Jerusalem in the east, and include Abu Ghosh and two other Israeli Arab villages close to Neveh Shalom. The number of Arab and Jewish children is roughly equal.

In addition to the primary school, some 30 children, most of them from Neveh Shalom, attend four pre-school frameworks from a creche to kindergarten. From the very beginning, the classes are bilingual. Even in kindergarten, there are two teachers — one Hebrew-speaking and the other Arabic-speaking — and each speaks in her mother tongue to all the children. The dualism continues in grades 1 and 2. There are two homeroom teachers who teach most of the subjects, including both languages.

In some subjects – Hebrew, Arabic and arithmetic – the class may be split into two because of gaps in knowledge or culture. For example, explained co-principal Boaz Kita'in, the Arab children are used to writing Arabic numerals from right to left while the Jews write the internationally recognized numerals from left to right. This will change soon, as Arab children – not only in Neveh Shalom – go over to the international system, he added.

The special subjects not taught by the homeroom teacher, such as art, music, sport, drama, communications and computers are taught by a specialist in his mother tongue, whichever it is. The teacher will translate key words and concepts into the other language. During the first two years, all the children – Jews, Moslems and Christians – learn about each other's traditions and cultures through stories. The holidays of all three religions are marked in every class. Starting from grade 3, there is only one homeroom teacher per class who speaks in his or her mother tongue. From this point, when the children begin to study religious texts the class splits up with the Jews studying the Bible and the Moslems studying the Koran.

In the schoolyard, the Arab children speak Arabic among themselves and the Jews speak Hebrew, according to Kita'in. When they play together, they speak Hebrew. "The fact that the Jews are the majority in Israel has its effect on us, too," said Kita'in. "In order to encourage spoken Arabic, we have instituted a regulation whereby the first 20 minutes of every day in every class are devoted to spoken Arabic."

Until 1990, the Neveh Shalom school served only its own resident children. That year, it was opened up to the district. But it was during the brief period when Shulamit Aloni, then-leader of Meretz, served as minister of education (1992-93), that the school received formal recognition from the government for the first time. Today it is supervised by the Ministry of Education, but the ministry does not pay teachers' salaries or other educational costs, only a fixed sum of money per pupil. Parents pay NIS 300 per month (including transportation) and much of the school's expenses are covered by donations from abroad.

Last year, Neveh Shalom went up a notch in status when it was recognized as a model school. That gives it the right to help guide other schools wishing to operate along the same principles of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

– D.I.

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Jeep thrills

Homefront



Allison K. Sommer

Once upon a time there was something called a Family Car. The Family Car was always a big sturdy vehicle designed to hold as many kids and their accumulated accessories as possible. It was designed and purchased for practicality, not glamour.

The ultimate Family Car was the station wagon. A wagon carried with it the ultimate badge of upper-middle-class respectability – and at the same time an unmistakable stigma. It labeled the driver as a suburban parent: someone who had waved goodbye to the cool, hip, exciting part of their life and was now engulfed in boring, practical obligations.

That is why many men were always loath to drive the Family Car – both station wagons and their direct descendants, minivans. Nine times out of ten, if you looked inside such a vehicle, you saw a mother at the wheel, shlepping the kids to ballet class and soccer practice, bus-driver style.

If Dad was driving – against his will — you could spot him master of the road, ready to run wild on an open field.

The names of the jeeps encourage the fantasy; they sport monikers like Range Rover, Forester and Terrano, making old Dad feel that while he is, in fact, simply carting his kids around suburbia, he is capable of taming any terrain.

Perched high above mere mortals driving regular cars, he knows he is ready to bypass traffic by hopping on a dirt road or spontaneously taking a cruise on the beach. And, most importantly, he knows that his is bigger than yours.

WHY DO the wives go along with it? Well, budget permitting, they have no logical reason to say no. Once these womenfolk see that there is enough room for the family in the jeeps, that you can throw plenty of junk in back, that they feel protected and safe riding in them, why not?

And the added bonus: once the purchase is made, their husbands are very, very happy. A little testosterone surge never hurt any marriage.

"It's so funny: I really thought

Some marketing man must have figured out how to build an outrageously expensive vehicle that men would find fun and wives couldn't fault

feeling castrated, looking longingly out the window of his big clunker, fantasizing about whizzing along in something manly, dangerous and impractical: a macho sports car like a Porsche, or perhaps that ultimate symbol of bad-boy-hood, a motorcycle.

But rarely would he get spousal approval for such an acquisition. Buying himself such flashy transportation would be equivalent to taking a mistress – a clear sign of midlife crisis, one that is extremely expensive and can incur an unprecedented fit of anger from one's wife. In short, an adventure that is not worth the risk.

SOME CLEVER marketing man must have examined this situation, and then sat down to figure out how to build an outrageously expensive vehicle that men would consider fun and exciting and was spacious enough for the whole family. Whoever this marketer is, he must be a rich man today, for our streets are being invaded by the ultimate yuppie assault vehicle: the jeep.

Yes, upscale neighborhoods now have more jeeps on the road than the average army camp. Around where I live, in the Ra'anana-Herzliya-Kfar Shmaryahu suburban triangle, you can't turn the corner without encountering a jeep piloted by some happy wealthy Dad who clearly feels like he is a macho

I knew this man, but I had no idea that he would get so excited over transportation," confessed a friend whose husband is a happy recent jeep-jockey.

"I mean, he wouldn't notice if our kids spray-painted the living room – but he wants them to take their shoes off before they get into the car because he doesn't want them to mess up the new jeep."

The only problem, she confesses, is that her husband is not content to be a mere suburban warrior fantasizing about adventures in the wild. He actually wants to take his all-terrain vehicle onto some terrain.

And so, for now, their family is trading their usual lazy weekend schedule of family meals and long naps for Fridays and Saturdays tooling around sand dunes in the Negev or speeding over the hills around Jerusalem.

But that doesn't really bother her. After all, as long as the kids are strapped in tight, the trips are, after all, a good opportunity for family bonding. And as an experienced mom, she knows that the thrill of a new toy eventually wears off, and that the jeep will soon revert to being used as she and most of us women see it.

And how *do* we see it? Basically, as a very tall, overpriced Family Car with really big wheels.

But keep it quiet. There's no reason to share that with the guys. After all, why spoil their fun?



Horsing around: Mounted on a white horse in traditional Sikh style, a groom in New Delhi receives well-wishers during his wedding procession. (AP)

Here comes India's first 'Bride,' red sari and all

The sub-continent's first wedding magazine isn't aimed at engaged couples but at the real decision makers – the parents. Donna Bryson reports.

The bride on the cover wore vibrant red, and a wedding to-do list inside included a reminder to make an appointment with a traditional body-painting artist.

The British-bred publisher of India's first magazine devoted to weddings has been careful not to commit the errors of other new investors in this hard-to-penetrate market.

Sanjit K. Dhillon has molded the format of scores of Western magazines to fit distinctly Indian tastes.

From cable television giants to fast food kings, investors have come to India in recent years believing middle and upper middle class consumers – their number estimated as high as a whopping 250 million – would grab anything foreign after years of economic isolation. Instead, the new ventures have had to Indianize to get attention, dubbing the US television series *Baywatch* into Hindi, for example, or spicing up their french fries.

The cultural credentials of Dhillon's bimonthly *Bride and Home* go beyond its seductive pictures of $1,000 wedding saris in shades of red, the luckiest color for Indian brides.

Such magazines in the US assume the engaged couple will be making most of the decisions about their wedding, honeymoon and new home. But Dhillon, a 26-year-old raised in Britain by her Indian father and English mother, knew matches here are family affairs.

Many Indian brides and grooms don't even choose each other, let alone the wedding reception hall. A union between a man and woman who found each other instead of being matched by relatives is still rare enough to have a special label: love marriage.

"I've been going to the newsstands and watching who's buying the magazine," said Dhillon, whose first issue of 20,000 copies appeared in October. "Fathers are buying it, mothers are buying it. It's really a family magazine."

Bride and Home's voice is exemplified by an advice column whose writer Dhillon will identify only as "a very intelligent older lady."

In the first issue, the columnist chided one woman worried her parents would spend too much on her wedding that the decision was theirs, not hers; cautioned a divorcee that she had to expect suspicion from the parents of a new boyfriend, "given the fact that you failed to remain married to your husband"; and advised a third intent on a love marriage, "you will not be able to expect much support from your parents should your marriage fail later on."

Young Indians are stepping out of traditional roles, but few are straying so far they would rebel against *Bride and Home*'s tone.

"It's my wedding – but at the same time I also see it as a family event," said Saloni Dayal, a 28-year-old Bombay lawyer.

"I'm modern in the sense that I've been living on my own. But I'm traditional in the sense that I still feel attached to my family." Dayal and her advertising executive fiance's plans for a small wedding and reception were overruled by their families.

More than 300 people were invited to the late October wedding at an estimated cost of $3,000. The reception ballooned accordingly, and cousins added a traditional gathering at which the bride's hands and feet are painted with intricate henna designs.

Indrani Kashyap, a 24-year-old newlywed, found her own husband, but let her widowed mother and other relatives handle her elaborate wedding for 600 in August. Then, like a traditional Indian bride, the advertising executive moved from her mother's home to that of her husband's parents.

"I don't know if we would like it if we were just the two of us," she said, recalling spats settled with her mother-in-law's help. "Sometimes you need family. Sometimes the friction between just two people is too much."

THE *Bride and Home* team of publisher Dhillon and editor Mila F. Terry spent a year researching its market, discovering in the process that there are an estimated 10 million weddings every year in this country of 960 million.

Dhillon moved to New Delhi last August with her British fiance, a public relations agent starting a business there. Terry arrived about the same time with her Indian husband.

Dhillon, who had a property investment company in London, also wanted her own business in India. With marriage on her mind, she was surprised to find no bridal magazines in a country where weddings are so important, and so often such lavish affairs.

Dhillon refused to say what her start-up costs were but said she hoped to make a profit only after a year or so. At 60 rupees (about $1.60) a copy, her magazine is in a league with several glossy fashion, home decor, and women's magazines that have appeared in India in recent years.

Bride and Home, with its thick, shiny paper and ads for opulent wedding jewels, is directed at middle and upper-middle class families willing to spend money on a wedding as a social statement. New businesses selling cars, television sets and refrigerators have found the Indian middle class reluctant to buy – perhaps because they're saving up for a showy wedding.

"Very few people actually understand that there's an incredible amount of wealth here," Dhillon said.

"And the moment when all this wealth and generosity and *joie de vivre* is on display is at a wedding." (AP)

GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Untying the knot

The party is finally over. After several half-hearted attempts to deny the rift in their short-lived marriage, **Roni Chen** and **Dudu Topaz**, whose wedding atop Masada was one of the most publicized of the decade, have decided to call it quits. Although Topaz promised after the ceremony to remain faithful to his new wife forever, he was unable to control his roving eye, and Chen wasn't prepared to turn a blind eye to his shenanigans, according to media reports. The couple are due to appear in the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court today in a joint attempt to untie the knot.

THE QUESTION posed at Jerusalem's Yakar Center for Social Concern was: Has the media disgraced itself over the **Netanyahus**? The *Boston Globe*'s **Charles Sennott** observed that the Netanyahus "wanted to be like the Kennedys, and they've ended up being much more like the Nixons." A Catholic of Irish descent, Sennott looks pretty much like a Kennedy himself.

EXTRAMARITAL affairs seem to be par for the course for politicians. Although **Bill Clinton**'s alleged improprieties get more publicity than those of other heads of state and parliamentarians, he is merely following a time-honored tradition.

The March edition of *Olam Ha'isha* cites the peccadilloes of a long list of high-ranking politicians from a dozen countries, including Israel. Yet, while revealing the romps of David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Zalman Shazar, Levi Eshkol, Moshe Dayan and their contemporaries, it stops short of anyone more contemporary than **Rafael Eitan**, **Gad Ya'acobi** and **Rafi Edri**, who left their wives to marry the other women, and **Bibi**'s grand public confession about his dalliance with an election campaign aide.

IN A *Yediot Aharonot* interview with **Yaron London**, who was pressing him on the issue of what a president may or may not do, **Ezer Weizman** recalled his uncle Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president, once remarking that he was happy he had a handkerchief so he could poke his nose into something.

USUALLY a short-haired blonde, the irrepressible and spontaneous **Maatchen Land**, wife of South African Ambassador **Frank Land**, surprised other guests at the Israel launch of Matis Cosmetics, when she disappeared momentarily during the pre-luncheon cocktail and returned as a curly-haired redhead. She had brought the wig to lend to fellow blonde **Paulette Ben-Haim** of the International Women's Club to wear to a Purim party.

Land wore the wig herself to last year's Purim party hosted by veteran *Yediot Aharonot* columnist **Mira Avrech**. "No one recognized her," recalled **Ildiko Csejtei**, wife of the Hungarian ambassador.

Reiko Uchiyama, involved with organizing the appearances here of several Japanese companies of performing artists, was fascinated by Land's transformation. "Do you carry the wig with you all the time?" she asked. This amused Land, who had been captured for posterity by caricaturist **Nissim** before going from blonde to red.

Other guests included **Nagwa Bassiouny**, wife of the Egyptian ambassador, restaurateur **Rina Pushkarna** and several other celebrities, as well as representatives of Gigi Cosmetics, who struck the deal with Matis.

Land is unlikely to attend Mira Avrech's Purim party this year. She's hosting one of her own, on behalf of the Hand in Hand charity.

IT WAS quid pro quo in Ra'anana last Friday, when Labor Party chairman **Ehud Barak** signed an International Women's Day declaration urging greater female representation in local government and in the leadership of public institutions. Then, standing under a banner emblazoned "Women for Barak," he hugged some of the women present.

Shame, ladies! Had it been a men's group, he would have shaken hands all round instead of taking the macho liberty of an embrace.

THE VENUE was Tel Aviv, but the focus was on Jerusalem – or, more accurately, the Hebrew University.

At the Gan Ha'ir apartment of **Aharon Dovrat**, president of the Dovrat Shrem investment house, some 150 guests invited to a reception in honor of **Harvey M. Krueger**, vice chairman of Lehman Brothers, New York, and HU president **Menachem Magidor** constituted a who's who of local industrialists, bankers and investors. Krueger happens also to be honorary chairman of the HU Board of Governors.

Others present included **Yigal Arnon**, president of the Israel Friends of the HU, who announced that the university's $600 million capital campaign has already exceeded the 33% mark and is gaining strength. Krueger and Magidor each underscored the importance of attracting top-grade students.

Other HU personalities on hand were **Alex Grass**, chairman of the HU Board of Governors and **Barbara Mandel**, who together with Krueger co-chairs the university's fund-raising campaign. Other well known figures and HU supporters there included **Galia Maor**, director general of Bank Leumi, **Michael Federman**, chairman of Dan Hotels, **Moshe Wertheim**, chairman of Coca Cola and part-owner of the Mizrahi Bank.

Also invited were **Gad Ya'acobi**, chairman of the Israel Electric Corporation, Koor director-general **Benny Gaon**, and Strauss Dairies president **Michael Strauss**. Last but not least: Governor of the Bank of Israel **Jacob Frenkel** and Tel Aviv Mayor **Ronni Milo**.

THE CROWD at the book-warming of **Jeff Green**'s second novel, *Sof-Shavua Americani* ("American Weekend"), included the cream of native-English-speaking poets and writers in the capital – though some write in other languages.

The question on most people's minds was: Why had Green chosen to write this novel in Hebrew and publish it here? One reason, its author explained, was that as a reviewer of books in Hebrew for *The Jerusalem Post*, he dwells in the world of Hebrew literature. Israel affords a special intimacy to writers, he added, because they live among their audience. There was a time when this was true elsewhere, he ruminated; Dante, for example, had a contemporary audience of perhaps no more than 50,000. Today that kind of intimacy is elusive, especially for writers in English.

"If I got something published in the *Sewanee Review* it would be a great honor," said Green, referring to the prestigious American literary journal, noting, however, that he would never encounter his audience.

"When I write for *The Jerusalem Post*, I keep meeting my readers."

WHEN **Zvi Mazel**, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, had to do business in Taba at the end of last week, his family thought it a perfect opportunity for them all to get together and celebrate his birthday. So instead of staying at the Taba Hilton, Mazel and his wife **Michelle** crossed the border to Eilat and stayed at the Princess Hotel, where, coincidentally, one of their daughters works as sales manager. They spent the weekend with their offspring **Iris**, **Tamm** and **Yossi**, who were schoolchildren when the Mazels served their first stint in Egypt with the first Israeli diplomatic mission there.

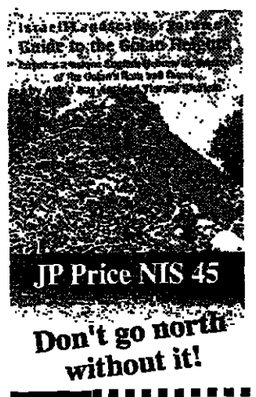
In those days, the whole family lived in Egypt. But the younger Mazels, now pursuing careers of their own, live neither in Cairo nor in Jerusalem with their parents. But getting together in Eilat was an opportunity none of them wanted to miss.

OSCAR-winning actress **Jodie Foster** is due to become somebody's mother in September. It's not an acting part but a real-live role for the 35-year-old Foster, experiencing her first pregnancy. She's keeping mum about the baby's father – but, given the Hollywood gossip circuit, that secret may emerge well before the baby does.





Maatchen Land: from blonde to redhead in a flash



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Once bitten, twice shy?

Dear Ruthie

Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie,

It all happened a year ago. He came to the US from Israel as an exchange student. I was studying on an international student visa. It was fate that put us together – and that's when everything went wrong.

He was the best man I'd ever known. Or so I thought at the time. He was so sweet to me at the beginning, and then he changed.

Suddenly he acted like he didn't care about me anymore. I was afraid to lose him, even though I knew we had no future together (because of our cultural differences and because of Jewish law regarding intermarriage). I was naive enough to think that I could ignore his cruelty.

And then he told me that his ex-girlfriend (also Israeli) – with whom he had broken up before coming to the US – wanted them to get back together.

I was very angry. But I wasn't blaming him for returning to his girlfriend. I too would have chosen the person from the same background.

What I couldn't understand was that he had said he cared about me – and now here he was telling me that I was just a friend.

I was totally crushed. He couldn't understand what I wanted from him. But all I wanted was to feel that I filled some small place in his heart.

We broke up and he went back to Israel. The following term, I couldn't bring myself to attend classes, so I went back home to cure my pain. Later on, I returned to the US to finish my degree.

I have lost all trust in men. No matter who asks me out, I just walk away.

But this Valentine's Day, a good friend unexpectedly showed up at my apartment with a big bouquet of roses and asked me to be his girlfriend. I don't know what to do. He is handsome, funny, smart and, most important of all, he loves me. But he is an American Jew, and I'm going back to my country when I graduate.

I haven't told him about my previous painful experience, and if I tell him that I can't get involved with a Jewish man it would sound antisemitic. Maybe it would be better to lie and say that I don't have any feelings for him.

But if I keep running away, how will I ever find true love?

Haunted by the Past

Somewhere in USA

Dear Haunted,

Your painful experience was not with a man – it was with rejection. Though always painful, when rejection leads to the kind of depression you describe, there is something much deeper at work than losing a boyfriend.

Examining your early childhood couldp shed some light on your devastation. Since the experience was so traumatic as to cause you to fear entering into any other relationship, performing this task may be too difficult without professional assistance.

That you consider the most "important" thing about your new suitor is his love for you is worrisome. Rather than examining your feelings towards him, you are concerned with his for you.

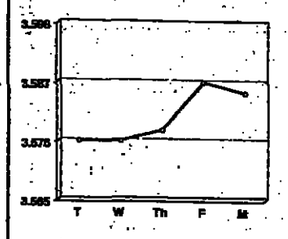
Perceiving your relations with the opposite sex in this way is putting you at men's mercy and preventing you from finding what you refer to as "true love." Avoiding Jewish men in your case would not be an act of antisemitism – it would simply be irrelevant to your problem.

Letters should be addressed to "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" will also appear in *In Jerusalem* and *City Lights* beginning March 20.)

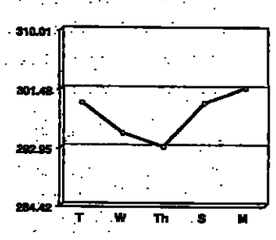
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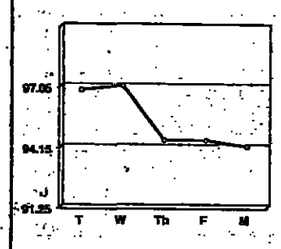
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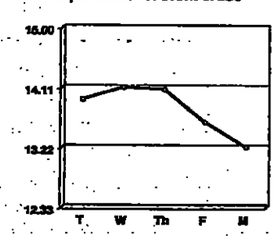
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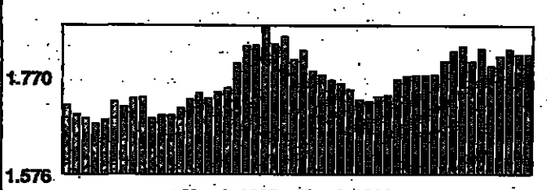
GOLD
$ per ounce



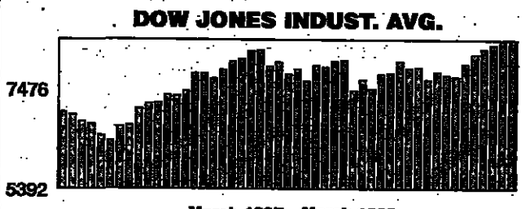
OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Ritz-Carlton to make Israeli debut

The Ritz-Carlton hotel chain is to manage a Tel Aviv-seafront hotel for German businessman Joseph Buchman, according to a company spokesperson. Several chains were competing for the land, among them the US Hilton and David Teig, who wanted to build a hotel to be managed by one of the brand names he represents.

The land is one of the last available plots designated for hotels along the Tel Aviv beachfront. *Globes*

Lau: Lower prices of glatt kosher meat

Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau yesterday called for lower prices for imported frozen glatt kosher meat.

Glatt, which means "smooth" in Yiddish, refers to the practice of ritual slaughterers inspecting the lungs of an animal after it has been slaughtered. If there is a blemish which has healed, the animal is considered kosher, but only animals whose lungs have no blemishes are considered glatt kosher.

The Chief Rabbinate certifies meat as glatt kosher, but there are also about half a dozen haredi groups that import meat, under the auspices of the Chief Rabbinate, to meet their own individual standards. While imported kosher meat costs about NIS 15 a kilogram and the Chief Rabbinate's glatt kosher meat is not much more, the meat certified by the smaller groups costs from NIS 25 to NIS 30 per kilogram.

Lau said that while privately certified meat might be expected to be marginally more expensive, the large price differential is not always justified.

Lau said a study had shown that 87 percent of Israeli Jews bring only kosher food into their homes. About 10% of the population buys glatt kosher meat, he said. *Haim Shapiro*

VocalTec negotiates Merger with RADLINX

VocalTec is negotiating a merger with RADLINX of the RAD Group. According to estimates, the merger will be carried out by allocating VocalTec shares to RADLINX owners, based on a RADLINX company value of $10 million - $20m. VocalTec's current market value amounts to $186 million.

RADLINX's product line complements that of VocalTec.

RADLINX developed a product based on hardware and software for the transmission of faxes on the Internet. *Globes*

MINISTRY OF IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION

From all ends of the Jubilee...

Minister of Immigrant Absorption Prize

Painting in a New Country - "New Vistas"

As part of Israel's Jubilee celebrations, Yuli Edelstein, the Minister of Immigrant Absorption, invites immigrant artists to compete for prizes on the subject of "New Vistas."

The prizes, which will be awarded in conjunction with the Center for Immigrant Artists, will also express the appreciation of the Israeli public for immigrant artists.

Artists who arrived in Israel after the beginning of 1988 are eligible to participate.

Regulations and questionnaires are available at the offices of the Center for Immigrant Artists, Women's League for Israel building, 14 Rehov Ibn Gabirol, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-563-6262.

Due to requests by a large number of immigrants, the last date for submitting applications has been postponed to March 31, 1998.

Applications arriving after this date will not be considered.

One painting by an artist who receives a prize will become the property of the State (the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption).

Bezeq workers snub share offering

At least 40% of employees choose not to exercise option to buy stocks

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Some 40 percent of Bezeq workers didn't exercise the option to buy shares in the flotation of the company last week, senior Bezeq officials said.

The national telecom company raised NIS 460 million last week in a public offering. Workers were offered some 17.5 million shares, representing about 2 percent of the company's shares.

The shares were offered in two forms: stocks which were given on the basis of a past commitment made by the government during the offering of the telecom company in 1991 and shares which were given as part of the recent flotation.

The 1991 shares were given to workers at NIS 0.41 per share, which reflects a discount of NIS 1.30 per share. The 1998 shares were offered at NIS 5.78, reflecting a discount of 30%.

Senior company sources said that while almost all workers purchased the 1991 shares, only 60% bought the 1998 shares. Other company sources said, however, that the number of those who actually bought shares is substantially lower.

A senior official said that the low number of workers who exercised the right to buy shares should not be interpreted as a lack of confidence in Bezeq's future. He said that more workers didn't use the right to buy shares because the shares only can be sold after two years and that workers had to pay taxes, national insurance and health insurance on the income from the shares.

"For those who pay 50% tax, the benefit is negligible," one worker said. "The majority of those who did buy shares are retired employees and those who are about to retire and hold much money in cash. There is no point in taking a loan from the company to buy shares while there is no guarantee that the share will rise in the future."

Workers also said that uncertainty concerning the future of many employees led to a lack of enthusiasm.

"We don't know if we will continue to work here and those who will go on working here might be asked to move from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. There is an atmosphere of uncertainty and we don't want to take any risks," one worker said.

Meanwhile, Israel (Izzi) Tapoohi, chairman of Bezeq's board, said that the flotation was a tremendous success.

"The offering was better than anticipated. We didn't predict oversubscription of 10 times from the public and three times from institutional investors."

He said that the NIS 380m. the company raised isn't designated for one particular purpose, but "for the expansion of the telecom network, for improving efficiency and for reorganizing of the company."

"Bezeq privatization is the key to transforming the state monopoly into an agile, cost-conscious, market-driven company capable of delivering sustained growth in earnings on behalf of its share holders," Tapoohi said. "Privatization will enable Bezeq to recruit workers who can best grasp and maximize opportunity."

He added that by the end of February the government and Bezeq can expect to sell another 2% of their holdings through shares and convertible securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Ministers to set El Al sale process today

By DAVID HARRIS

The ministerial committee for privatization is to meet this afternoon to decide on the method of privatizing El Al.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom (NRP) will present cabinet colleagues with a general overview of his stance on the sale of the carrier, including his opposition to Shabbat flights, and support for a public flotation, according to a statement from the ministry.

The Government Companies Authority, however, is expected to suggest only a partial initial flotation, with the later stages possibly taking the form of further flotations or a private sale, according to government sources.

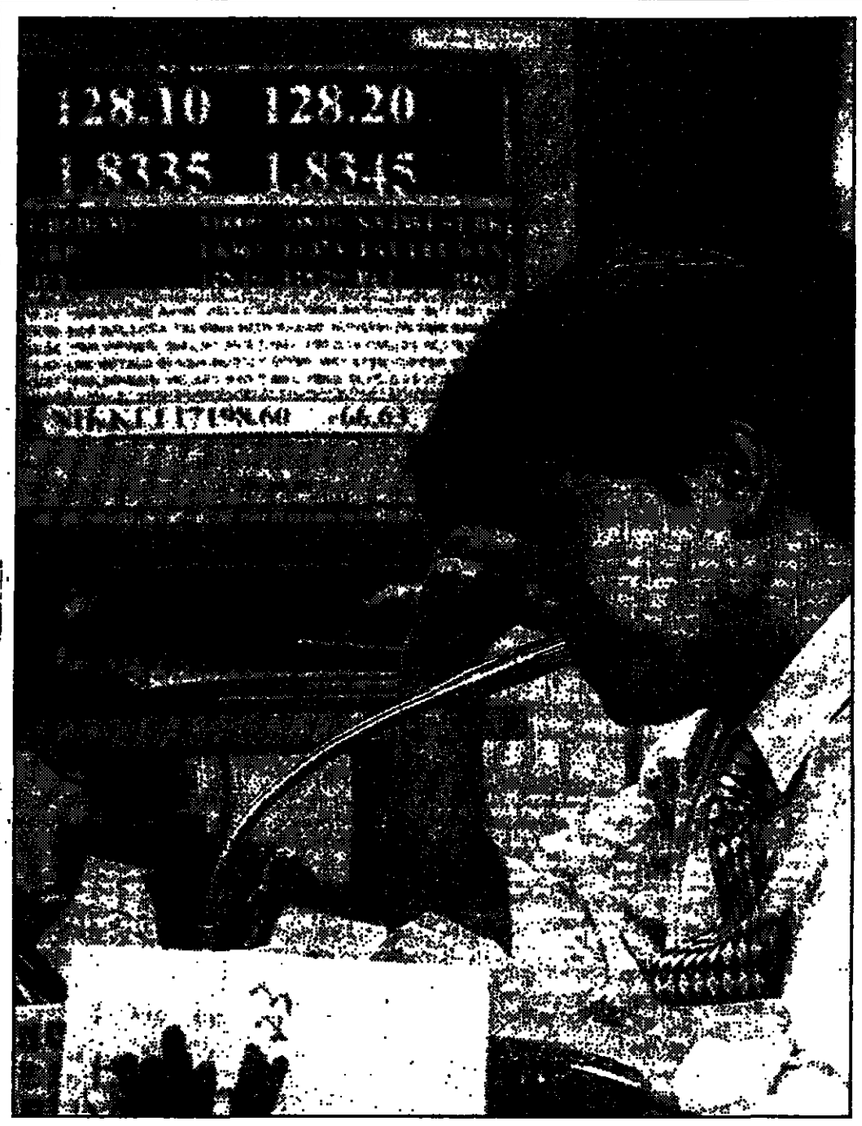
During a discussion in the ministry yesterday, Yahalom said workers rights must be preserved during the sale of the company, according to a statement published following the session.

"Before entering the privatization process, a solution must be found to the problem of the shortage of funds for compensating the workers," said Yahalom.

The minister stressed his view that the company must be sold on the bourse and not to a private investor who may "harm the workers."

The meeting was also attended by El Al Chairman Yosef Ciechanover, who refused to discuss the content of the talks. Last year Ciechanover said he favors an initial 51% sale to ensure a majority of the shares are out of government control.

But if 51% of the company is sold, the Government Companies Law will no longer apply, which should mean, according to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, that the company would be able to fly on Shabbat, something El Al management and workers say is vital to its existence.



Japanese woes continue

The yen lost more ground yesterday to the dollar, breaking the 128 mark, after the Japanese government reported household spending fell in January for the seventh time in 10 months, reinforcing expectations the economy is headed for recession and interest rates will remain near record lows. Full report page 15.

Neeman calls for Brussels talks on Euro

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman brought together senior ministry officials late Sunday night to instruct them on how to prepare papers to explain the likely impact of the European Monetary Union and its new currency scheduled to go into circulation next January.

Neeman said Israel must begin talks with Brussels to learn of the likely effects of the currency on various sectors of the domestic economy, according to ministry spokesman Motti Sherf.

The EU countries qualifying to adopt the single currency in 1999 will be named the first weekend of May, based on how they match up against a series of targets for budget deficits, inflation, interest rates and currency stability. Eleven countries have expressed a desire to adopt the currency at the initial stage, with Britain and Denmark preferring to hold referenda and Sweden and Greece opting not to join.

The Euro will give much greater strength to European markets, with a $3 – $3.5 trillion single-currency government bond market being created, for example, compared to some $3.4 trillion in the US.

The Euro will be introduced gradually, initially for calculation of debt bond flotations and similar financial transactions.

Neeman instructed Accountant General Shai Talmon to prepare a paper on raising capital in Europe once the Euro becomes legal tender. The ministry's revenues section was ordered to work with the Bank of Israel on planning for the required changes to the basket of major currencies against which the shekel is traded.

Today the Export Institute is holding a seminar to discuss the implication of the Euro on Israeli businesspeople. The Manufacturers Association yesterday published a survey suggesting only 22 percent of companies are readying themselves for the new coinage.

Tevel to purchase Cabletel for $280m.

Jerusalem Post Staff and GLOBES

Tevel Israel International Communications has received an option from United Pan-Europe Communications (UPC) to buy all its holdings in the American company Cabletel for $280 million, Discount Investments said yesterday.

Cabletel had agreed during the last few months to purchase Gvanim Cable Television and 32.3% of Monitin Publishing.

Gvanim holds the franchise to operate cable television in Rishon Lezion, Ramle, Lod and the Krayot and has 140,000 subscribers. Monitin owns the financial daily *Globes* and stakes in other communication companies.

UPC together with TCI Communications hold 46.5% of Tevel. Discount Investments and its sister company PEC Israel Economic Corp hold another 48.5% of the cable television supplier. Tevel operates cable television systems in Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Ashkelon and the Jezreel Valley and has 240,000 subscribers.

The deal is still subject to the approval of the Cable Broadcasters Association and the Antitrust Authority.

Meanwhile, the Cable Broadcasters Association is due to approve the acquisition of 9.9% of Matav-Cable System Media by Russian billionaire Vladimir Gusinsky, through a concern that he holds.

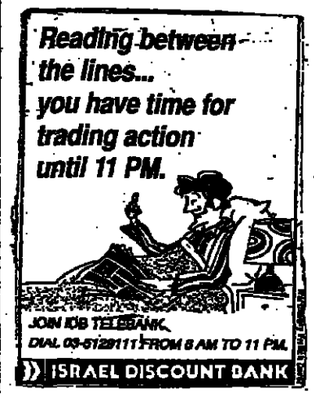
Matav holds exclusive licenses to offer cable television services in Bat-Yam, Holon, Haifa, Netanya, Hadera and the Galilee area. The shares will be purchased from businessman Hanania Gibstein for $24.5 million.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein approved the deal Sunday. The Cable Broadcasters Association plans to convene its next meeting on March 19.

Acting chairman, attorney Zvi Hauser, is endeavoring to call a special meeting to enable the deal to go into effect as soon as possible. Rubinstein's examination focused on the activities of the media controlled by Gusinsky in Russia, in the light of complaints that they were being exploited for business and political purposes.

The Russian concern, represented in Israel by Mark Meirson, has recently set up a company jointly with the controlling owners of Matav, the Dankner family.

Matav is traded both on NASDAQ in New York and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The controllers of the company are Dankner Investments Group with 37.2%, Hanania Gibstein and, the *Ma'ariv* newspaper with 13.6%.



Lloyd's looking to expand activity here

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Lloyd's, the UK-based insurance underwriter, is looking to expand its activity in Israel, Lloyd's CEO Ron Sandler told reporters yesterday in Tel Aviv.

"We are a leader insurer in Israel," said Sandler in his second visit here. "We have always found Israel an attractive place to do business. We hope for an open regime that will allow foreigners to expend their activity."

He mentioned the new legislation concerning Avner Insurance Corp. as an opportunity. Avner, which is owned by the country's insurance companies, shares liability for all motor vehicle policy holders.

Sandler said that Lloyd's sees opportunities in reinsurance of Israeli companies.

"When the economy grows, Israel as a regional center is creating orders for insurance," he said.

He added that his firm has an annual turnover of £50m. to £60 million ($80m.-$96m.) from its activities in the local market. The sum includes earning from activities of policy holders, reinsurance of companies and from insuring large Israeli companies, such as El Al and the Israel Electric Corp., who deal directly with the Lloyd's London Market.

Sandler said that there are about 20 Israeli syndicate members, also known as "names," out of which 12 are resident here. He added that Israel is the company's largest market in the Middle East and is expected to become even bigger.

Jonathan Gross, the syndicate representative in Israel, said that during the recent Iraqi crisis many of Lloyd's underwriters expressed interest in offering war insurance to Israelis.

Sandler told reporters that during his visit he will also meet with the superintendent of insurance at the Palestinian Authority. He added, however, that Lloyd's is not involved there.

Sandler commented that insurance prices worldwide are too low.

"Prices are lower than ever. The prices are worryingly low around the world but there is little we can do because of the high competition."

He predicts that in the future lots of insurers will find themselves in difficulties. He said, however, that prices are expected to remain stable in the future.

Saudis to skip OPEC meeting

By SEAN EVERS

DUBAI (Bloomberg) – Saudi Arabia won't attend an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting next week because, without Venezuela's presence, the cartel can't act to lift prices, said a person familiar with the Saudi government's plans.

Officials at the Saudi Arabian Oil Ministry declined to comment.

Venezuela, OPEC's largest violator of agreed quotas, had said its oil minister wouldn't attend the Vienna meeting, even as Rilwanu Lukman, OPEC's secretary-general, invited all the cartel's members to attend.

Venezuela produced 3.45 million barrels a day last month, according to the Bloomberg Energy Service, 34 percent more than its OPEC quota.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Erwin Arrieta last week said he would not be able to accept Lukman's invitation to come to Vienna, citing a prior official engagement, and added that he believes the "age of quotas is finished."

OPEC, which produces nearly 40 percent of the world's oil, has said it will announce by tomorrow just which of its 11 member nations will send top-level delegates to an organization meeting set for March 16. If enough nations send delegates, the event could turn into an emergency meeting with the authority to cut quotas, a move which would potentially lift sagging oil prices. However, without Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, this would be impossible.

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Building Blocks
By Nina Gilbert

JERUSALEM AREA

■ A luxurious penthouse, which was built to serve as the official residence of the late World Jewish Congress leader Nahum Goldmann, is on sale for $2.5 million with all of its furnishings, including Persian rugs. The 400-sq.m. apartment, on Rehov Ahad Ha'am in Talbiyeh, is being offered jointly through Anglo-Saxon and Sotheby's. The apartment also has a 70-sq.m. terrace. The two agencies are also still trying to find a buyer for a five-story 55m. mansion in Bayit Vagan. The property, known as the Hasten House, has 16 rooms, four kitchens and nine bathrooms, an elevator and a closed-circuit security system.

■ Three homes in the ecological community of Srigim are being offered by Gilinski Investments for between $250,000 and $300,000 each. There are some 200 single-family homes in the community, mostly occupied by young professional families, each with unique architecture. The homes, built about two years ago, sit on half-dunam plots. The community is adjacent to Moshav Leon in the Ella Valley, not far from Beit Shemesh. According to the agency, about 10 percent of the homes in the community are for sale, many by young couples who were unable to handle the high costs of the project.

■ The agency also sold a three-room, recently renovated apartment on Rehov Davidson in Nayot for $275,000. On Rehov Binyamin Mitudela, a three-room apartment on the first floor was sold for $285,000. The apartment, which was in excellent condition, was sold after one day on the market.

■ Nation's House, an office and commercial complex on Derech Hebron, is to be ready for occupancy in April. The $15m. project, built by Nechesei Hadarim and Gad Hevra L'Binyan, has some 8,000 sq.m. of space on six floors, all of which is designated for rent. Prices start from $20 per sq.m. for office space and $30 per sq.m. for commercial space. The company would not say how much, if any, of the space has already been rented.

TEL AVIV AND CENTER

■ Africa-Israel has begun to market apartments on the Shopping Channel at sizable discounts. The company is offering apartments in two projects, at Kiryat Savyonim in Yehud and Savyonei Hapark in Ness Ziona, with prices starting at $280,000. Callers who commit to a NIS 5,000 down-payment via credit card will get a NIS 50,000 discount in the Ness Ziona building, and a NIS 7,000 payment will earn a NIS 100,000 discount in Yehud. Viewers will be shown video clips on the interior and exterior views of the apartments and the building site. The company said buyers only commit to buying in a project, and do not have to immediately choose which apartment.

■ Contractors are offering discounts of up to 10% at the housing fair being held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, which ends tonight. Apartments from Beersheba to Yokne'am are being offered at the event by 50 contractors.

■ Buyers of apartments being built by Diyour Laoleh Ltd. in the Neveh Ganim project in Petah Tikva can do their own interior design. The company has architects who will work with each buyer to plan the layout of the 140-sq.m. apartments, which are priced at $240,000. The 10-story building, which will have a fancy lobby, underground parking and high-standard finish, is to be ready for occupancy in April 1999. The self-design offer is available until Independence Day.

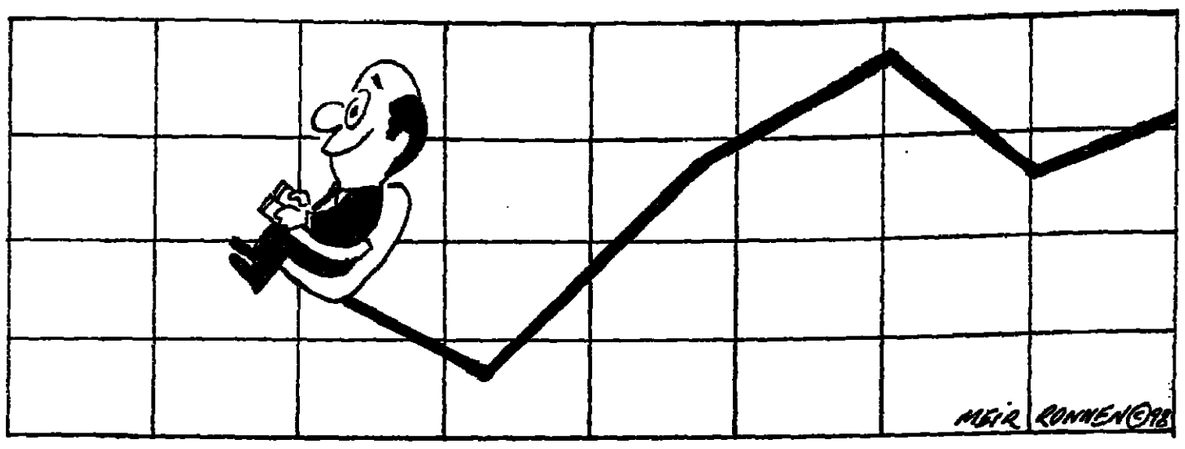
■ On Tel Aviv's Rehov Bavli, a four-room, 90-sq.m. apartment was sold for $325,000 by Century 21. The asking price for the apartment, on the eighth floor, was $330,000. A three-room apartment on the sixth floor in the Tzameret Yaffo project was sold for $225,000. About 25% of the apartments in the project have been sold for some $2.5m.

■ A three-room apartment with a roof on Rehov Rabeinu Tam in Ramat Hasharon was sold for $280,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The 95-sq.m. apartment is on the third floor without an elevator and has an extra room on the roof level. In Netanya, the agency sold a four-and-a-half room apartment on Rehov Jabotinsky for $191,000.

Fasten your seat belts

After a protracted period of inaction, Tel Aviv's primary market is gathering steam again

MARKET WATCH
By DAN GERSTENFELD



Only a month ago, the outlook for the (primary) public-offering market was quite gloomy. Companies wishing to raise money from the public reconsidered their plans and underwriters had to over-stretch their marketing creativity, in nearly heroic endeavors, to increase the attractiveness of prospective flotations.

The Maof 25 index, which had reached an all-time high of 319.06 points at the end of October 1997, slid back to a mere 278.18 by the end of January. Falling prices were accompanied by a sharp decline in volume, with the average daily turnover plummeting from some NIS 280 million to less than NIS 100m.

Understandably, prospects were grim at that point for companies seeking to raise money by offering securities. "Three weeks ago things seemed very bad," admits Yakir Gabay, general manger of Leumi & Co. Underwriters.

Despite fears, 10 companies, including several which were planning their initial public offering, submitted prospectuses to the Securities Authority hoping that the market would recover and conditions wouldn't force them to abandon plans and lose face.

Now, it seems, that the slogan "He who dares, wins" is coming true once again. The firms that were brave enough to proceed with their plans and test the waters will apparently be rewarded.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which suffered from a lack of interest since the beginning of the year, despite expectations for the mythological "January effect," started rising in a miraculous way at the second half of February with the market appreciating for 10 consecutive days, during which time the Maof surged almost 10 percent and activity more than doubled.

Presently, as investors wait for the next wave of public offerings, the prospects are much more favorable.

The two leading offerings, Bezeq Israel Telecom and Bank Hapoalim, indicate that the market is ripe to absorb large flotations. Primary sig' indicate that the offerings planned by companies from the private sector will end successfully as well.

"The recent market rise has improved the mood and investors are showing more interest," says Gabay, whose company participated last year in 25 offerings that raised a cumulative NIS 1.6 billion.

The current atmosphere reminds Gabay of the second quarter of 1997, which saw the highest number of offerings in more than three years. In 1998, he believes, companies will be able to repeat last year's success and raise some NIS 6b.

Another successful offering was made by Bezeq, in which the company raised NIS 460m. In addition, the sale is expected to generate another NIS 340m. when investors exercise options and convert bonds into shares.

Another positive sign came with Bank Hapoalim's share offering, in which the government raised NIS 420m. two weeks ago. The offering, which was six times oversubscribed, reassured investors that the market is still interested in attractive companies.

The successful offerings by Hapoalim and Bezeq are seen as positive signs for the whole underwriting industry – despite fears that these flotations have absorbed a large part of the market's liquidity.

One of the most encouraging facts is the involvement of foreign investors in the primary market.

Lehman Brothers committed itself to invest NIS 40m. in the offering of Bezeq, and Bankers Trust Company also ordered shares for several million shekels. The move of the two US investments banks, after Merrill Lynch bought a 12.5% stake in Bezeq last July, is another sign of confidence in the national telecom company.

1998 may also be the year marking an important change in the primary market with foreign investors becoming involved not only in the offerings of the big blue-chips companies, in which stakes are mainly sold as part of the government's privatization plan, but also in the flotations of smaller companies.

This phenomenon was clearly visible during the institutional tender of the offering of two real-estate companies specializing in property markets abroad.

The first one was the planned IPO of Y.T. America-Israel Investments, a real-estate company that buys and rents apartments in New York. The company belongs to contractor Yitzhak Tshuva, who made the headlines last week after wining control of Delek Israel in an impressive takeover, humiliating – with his rags-to-riches background – the Racanati family, one of the most prominent members of the local business elite.

The company, which plans to raise NIS 180m. this week, will offer convertible bonds and NIS 32m. in stocks. Gabay said that of the NIS 9m. offered to institutional investors, close to 25% was sold to Lehman Brothers and investment fund Permal Emerging Growth.

The institutional offering of Europe-Israel was even more successful in attracting foreign investors. The company, which is controlled by entrepreneur Motti Zisser, manages his Eastern Europe property business.

Europe-Israel, which plans to raise a total NIS 234m. by the end of the year, managed to sell the whole institutional offering, totaling NIS 12m., to foreign investors, including Bankers Trust, Lehman Brothers and Nagel Markar of Belgium. This came only two weeks after Merrill Lynch signed an agreement to acquire up to $12.6m. of stocks and options in the offering.

"The foreign investors are showing more interest, and they can already be seen in almost each offering. The trend is clear," said Gabay.

Another positive development this year, anticipates Gabay, will be companies offering more equity. In 1997, the primary market was taking its first steps after two years of almost no activity, when companies preferred to focus on issuing lower-risk convertible bonds. Gabay believes that the market is ready to take another step forward and absorb more equity offerings. "I believe that we will see a proportion of about 40% stocks and 60% bonds in 1998 compared with only 20% in equity last year," he said.

Another important development: In contrast to 1997, this year the number of medium- and small-scale companies going public is expected to rise. "Last year most of the money was raised by large companies such as Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank," Gabay said. "The market needs new companies, and I believe that 1998 would be characterized by a larger number of small and medium size firms going public."

If the current wave of public offerings ends up successfully, this might even happen in the second quarter, which is traditionally the strongest one, as firms can file prospectuses based on the annual reports released during the first quarter.

Despite all of the above, the window of opportunity that opened in 1997 might close once again if the stock market reverses its positive course.

More bad news from Asia, higher-than-expected inflation and negative political developments might ultimately prove that 1998's first quarter was a momentary exception in an otherwise listless issuers' market in Tel Aviv.

Reconsidering US aid to the Mideast

After 25 years of untouchability, Washington's aid to Israel is in the process of being trimmed

By ORA KOREN

The placid Arabian gulf vista visible from his penthouse in Doha was a misleadingly calm backdrop to a breakfast hosted by US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eisenstadt during last fall's Mideastern economic conference.

The tranquility of the hitherto uneventful occasion was shattered after a Bank of Israel official asked Eisenstadt whether US investment in the prospective Middle East development bank would come at the expense of direct aid to regional governments.

"I can promise nothing," came the reply. This was coupled with an even more blunt remark that some countries in the region are already poised to receive less foreign aid than they had grown accustomed to.

The Israelis at hand were immediately stung. For his part, Eisenstadt repeatedly reiterated this view in subsequent visits to Jerusalem. In response, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu repeated his own promise, delivered shortly after his election to a joint session of the US Congress, to support the cutback on aid to Israel.

To demonstrate his commitment, and following American insistence, Netanyahu dispatched Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to Washington in January to attend a meeting with senior US Treasury brass in order to further explore a prospective cut in US aid, which at roughly $3 billion per-annum, amounts to the largest single US-sponsored foreign-aid program.

For now, while Israel's economic attaché in Washington is holding low-level contacts, it remains unclear what the cutback plan will entail and when it will be launched.

Still, a moderate cutback that will not damage Israel is now a certainty, following a recent agreement between Jerusalem and Washington that half the civilian aid is could be converted to military aid. The subsequent cut would first be implemented in the year 2000, within an incremental 10-year framework.

The Clinton administration's displeasure with the Netanyahu government's handling of the peace process is also leading Washington to distance itself from the traditional commitment to a fixed annual aid package to Israel. Meanwhile, in an effort to sustain what has already been achieved in the wake of the Oslo process, the administration prefers to promote Arab-Israeli economic cooperation.


Netanyahu: Promise to Congress (Isaac Harari)


Neeman: Trip to Washington (Isaac Harari)


Eisenstadt: The regional option (Tav Or)

Domestically, the administration is less determined to fight an increasingly stingy Congress. The aim, therefore, is a gradual reduction of annual aid to Israel and a parallel increase, at its expense, in the funding of a host of regional projects.

Finagling with US aid to Israel is no simple matter for Washington. The program, which has its roots in the heady days that followed the 1973 Yom Kippur War, has long been perceived as a monument to America's commitment to a staunch ally.

Even during periods of diplomatic tension, Washington was careful not to do more than throw a vague hint concerning the rate of the program.

This decade, following the signing of the Oslo Accords, Clinton promised then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin that bold peace-related decisions would result in special economic backing. As the peace process developed, Clinton also expressed a willingness to expand aid elsewhere in the region.

Following the Hamas suicide attacks in 1995, Washington transferred Israel an additional $100 million, with which the IDF purchased special X-ray technology that is now used on the border passes between Israel and Gaza.

Last year, while congressional hostility toward increasing foreign aid was already rife, the administration failed to raise its share – which was, of course, to be the lion's share – in the Mideastern development bank's paid-up capital. Eisenstadt has promised to undo this embarrassment in next year's federal budget.

Washington's attitude toward the regional-bank idea, which originated in the 1994 Casablanca conference, has had its ups and downs, in line with traditional US suspicion of government-sponsored business endeavors. Now, however, Washington sees in the bank an efficient catalyst for Arab-Israeli discourse and cooperation which can reduce, if not overturn, regional tensions.

Aimed at bridging the private sector and the government in the financing of regional projects, the bank is to function as a commercial institution, rather than substitute for, or even compete with the World Bank's Middle Eastern activity. Of the 19 countries theoretically involved in establishing it, only Japan, with 9 percent of the bank's paid-up capital, and Holland, with 3%, have taken all the necessary steps to come up with the financing.

Italy and Greece are awaiting parliamentary approval for the transfers. Within the Middle East, Jordan is the only country to have signed the establishment documents of the bank, while Israel and Egypt are postponing the signature despite American pressure.

Washington is not concealing its displeasure with Jerusalem's foot-dragging.

While in Jerusalem last fall, Eisenstadt publicly blamed Israel for "undermining the efforts of Congress." The US, he said, expected Israel to take a leading part in the bank's establishment, adding that Israel and Egypt's signatures on the founding documentation were crucial in ensuring its establishment.

Concerning the funds, Eisenstadt promised to work with Congress and the key regional members – Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel – "to do everything possible to minimize the sacrifice on all sides," he noted.

The bottom line of all this is a shift in the American focus from national to regional aid programs: "Less foreign aid and more economic integration and private-sector development," as Eisenstadt had himself put it back in Qatar.

"It is quite obvious that looking ahead with Congress on foreign aid for the next five years, they are sending a signal that the aid is in decline," he said. "It is still essential in a few key regions, but there is growing focus on commerce and economic development of the private sector, which is a general trend worldwide."

In other words, the US is gently telling Israel to adapt to a new situation where the US annual budget cutback will be poured into investments in other projects in the region. The cutback will be moderate, incremental and bi-laterally devised, but it will indeed happen.

In fact, some of the aid has already been cut.

In the past year, the administration has cut back $50m. from Israel's aid package, and an identical amount from Egypt's program, and at the same time established an aid fund for Jordan. In the coming year, the amount for the fund will increase and will be financed again from the same cutback in aid to Israel. Consultations with Jerusalem were confined to determining which clauses within the aid program would end up sacrificed for Jordan's share. Otherwise, Israeli protests went unheeded.

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem confirmed that the administration wants to send an Israeli-Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian delegation to Washington in order to promote the regional bank within congress. Israel and Egypt, however, are being evasive.

Still, some in Jerusalem, particularly in the Foreign Ministry and the Bank of Israel, support the idea of funding a regional bank, arguing it would elevate Israel's status in the global financial community from aid recipient to aid granter. This, of course, is in addition to Israel's fundamental strategic interest in enhancing a more economically oriented Middle East.

Technically, if American financing for the bank is not be confirmed within the next six months, it is bound to wither away, according Bank of Israel executive Gidon Shor. Meanwhile, due to the time tables on which it was originally devised, if the bank is not established by the upcoming summer, all plans will return to the drawing board, including its prospective location in Cairo, which then might shift to Amman.

Cairo has developed the linkage between political and economic development in the Middle East to an art form, in stark contrast with the American belief that regional business and politics should be completely divorced. A Jordanian posting may help the bank operate while devoid of Egyptian-style political burdens.

The Conference Circuit
By Greer Fay Cashman

10.3 To mark the publication of three new volumes in the series recording **The Historiographical Legacy of the Second Aliya**, Bar-Ilan University, in conjunction with Yad Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, is hosting a seminar on the subject at BIU's Beck Hall.

15.3 Educators from Israel and abroad will participate in a study day on **The Changing Face of Higher Education in an Era of Information Technology**. Sponsored by the Haifa University Education Faculty, the event will be held in Haifa U's Eshkol Tower.

15.3 Senior banking executives will participate in a study day on **Bankrolling Real Estate Development in Israel** at the Herzliya Interdisciplinary Center, located on the Natan Alterman/Kanfei Nesharim intersection in Herzliya. Cosponsored by the Building and Contractors Association, the study day is one in a series of events to inaugurate the Arison School of Business Management.

16.3 *SWOT*, the magazine which puts its main emphasis on marketing strategies, will host a meeting at the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv on **Recession: Opportunity or Threat.**

19.3 **Power-Builder 6**, the latest Syabase product, will make its Israeli debut at a **Syabase/Powersoft Conference** at the Dan Panorama Convention Center, Tel Aviv. Company representatives will demonstrate and discuss new-generation software.

23.3 Yad Ben-Zvi, in conjunction with the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality, is sponsoring a two-day conference on **Acre – a Medieval City in the Year 2000.** Discussions will focus on 13th-century cities in the Mediterranean in general; the image of Acre as a Crusader city; the Jewish community of Acre; and problems in preserving an historic city. The conference will take place at the Einav Center in Tel Aviv and will be followed by a tour of Acre.

25.3 *Status*, the management-oriented magazine, is sponsoring a study day on **Export.** Speakers at the event at Gan Oranim will discuss government policy encouraging export; how to be a player in international export markets; growth through export subsidiaries; and the Internet as a window for export opportunities.

25.3 The first in a series of eight meetings on **Globalization and Multi-National Business Management** will be held at the Ramat Aviv Hotel, Ramat Aviv. The course, sponsored by the Israel Management Center, in conjunction with the Israel Manufacturers Association, will be addressed by captains of industry from diverse fields in the economy.

25.3 A two-day conference on **Alternative Medicine for the Haredi Community** will enable participants to familiarize themselves with subjects such as vegan diets, acupuncture, herbal remedies, reflexology and other aspects of non-conventional healing. The venue is the Central Hotel, Jerusalem.

26.3 The Ministry of Industry and Trade will host the **Forum of Chief Financial Officers.** The seminar will focus on the ministry's policies on liberalizing the economy; coordinating research-and-development investments with production costs; encouraging exports; developing overseas trade; and developing human resources. Speakers will include leading figures from the ministry, the Israel Export Institute, the Investment Center and the Standards Institute. Call (03) 642-8903 for information.

27.3.98 **Communications**, the conference aimed at the local broadcasting, public-relations and advertising communities, opens at the Radisson Moriah Hotel, Tel Aviv. Well-known personalities such as Dan Kaner, Nahman Shai and Ayala Hasson, in addition to spokespeople from government ministries and leading PR figures, will participate. Some of the subjects tabled for discussion during the two-day conference are work opportunities in the different branches of communication; what is involved in being a government spokesperson and women in communications.

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	360	0
Africa Israel 0.1	34000	0
Africa Israel 1	206000	0
Agan	11580	1.1
Agis	2410	-0.4
Al Paper Mills	13250	0.7
Al-Yor	3950	-0.8
Azorim	5100	0.8
Azorim Prop.	720	2.9
Bank Leumi 0.1	635	0.2
Baran	3040	9.6
Bayside 1	44500	0.2
Bayside 5	220800	0
Bezeq	379	0.5
Blue Square	3490	1.7
Bromine	3280	-0.9
Cal Electronics	53900	0.2
Cal Industries	1894	0.7
Cal Insurance	3580	1.7
Cal Israel 1	106.7	0.5
Cal Trade	1478	0
Dan Hotels	925	-0.5
Dankner	1800	1.1
Derban	750	1.2
Dead Sea Works 0.1	949	-1.9
Delek 0.1	13510	-0.9
Delek Car	802	-2
Development Mort	25700	-1.2
Discount Bank	575	4.8
Discount Inv.	9100	1.9
Elbit 0.003	1325	-0.4
Elbit Imaging	2470	0.4
Elbit system	4580	0
Elco	2140	-0.5
Elco Industries	4920	0
Electra	15780	0
Electra App	1580	0
Elite Ind. 1	2050	6.8
Elite Ind. 5	11980	2.4
Elron 0.003	5810	1.4
FIBI 5	88300	2.3
First Int'l 1	51200	1.8
First Int'l 5	249900	0.1
First Int'l Mort	52800	0
Formula	11780	1.1
General Bank	11280	3.3
Granit Hacarmel	827	-0.3
Hadarim Prop.	6580	0
Ham-Let	2300	0
Hapoalim 0.1	880	1.7
Harel Mishmar 1	9300	1.5
Harel Mishmar 5	18050	0.9
I.D.B. Dev.	7700	1.3
I.D.B. Holdings	7720	1.9
IDC	2160	3.2
Ind Bldgs	647	-0.6
Israel Chemicals	439	0.7
Israel Corp. 1	25200	0.8
Isratel	710	3.5
Jacobi	830	2.4
JCT	91.8	1.8
JEC	1895	-0.8
Klan	435	1.8
Knafaim	3780	0
Koor	42000	0.5
Leader	1404	-3.4
Leumi Insurance	201	0
Leumi Mortgage	94000	-1.1
Lipo	4200	1.2
Mehshoorim	2790	0.4
Menorah	575	0
Metab	3360	2.7
Michedrin	11920	0.2
Mol Eden	1445	0
Mollasaron	1100	-1.8
Menorah Ins. 1	1376	0
Milamor	1670	0
Mishkan	60900	0
Mizrahi Inv.	10700	0
NATSVA REGULAR	1415	-3.2
Nice Systems	16480	9.4
Ocil	8100	-2.5
Orbit	1850	0
Ormat Industries	470	0.4
Osem Industries	1511	-0.3
Petrochemicals	1970	-1.5
Phoenix Ins. 1	5130	-0.2
Poalim Inv.	13130	2.4
Prop & Bldg	28200	2.4
Salt Industries	1805	-6.8
Solel Bone	4780	0
Supersol	1109	0.5
Tadiran	14500	1.4
Tambour	750	-1.9
Tefahot	203700	0
Tempo	1480	0.7
Teva	14980	0.1
Urdan	314	1.9
Wire and Cables	1431	4.3
Ytong Industries	944	1.4

KARAM
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Abjec	2.7	0
Abtell	80	10.1
Ace-Strade	163.5	0
Ackerstein Bond B	181	0
Ackerstein Ind.	407	2
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1316	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	5897	-1
adamom	36.5	0
Adamim	413246	0
Adler	139	0
Adoha	129.5	0
Adumim	205	0
Africa Hotels Bond B	89.3	-0.1
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	38.9	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	8	0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	129.5	0
Alaskt Ind	1988	-5
Agis Warrant 3	47	0
Agis Warrant 4	570	0
Agish Int'l	386	0
Agri Investments	394	3.8
Al-Bon	134.5	0
Al-Bon Bond A	116.5	0.4
Alhe ot2	99	0
Alhe w8	138	0
Alhe we5	0	0
Alliance	787	3
Alonit	296	-1.3
Alony-Hetz	476	0.2
Alony-Hetz Bond A	220	0
Alrod	207	9.8
Alrod Warrant 1	11.7	8.4
Alrov Bond D	77.5	0
Alrov Warrant 5	320	0
Alumit	182	0
Alumit	7043	0
Amiger	209	0
Amitec	355	0
Aromall Warrant 1	18.5	-2.6
Armet	544	0.7
Ampe Investments	119141	-0.5
Analyst EMS	1171	0.8
Angel Trade	36.3	0.8
Angel Trade Bond A	148	0.3
Angel Trade Bond B	115.5	-0.4
Angel Trade Bond C	64	-1.5
Angel Trade Warrant 2	1.4	0
Apcon	466	0
Apcon warrant 1	238	0
Appliocom	2505	4.2
Aracell Warrant 2	317	0
Arad	2082	-2
Arad Towels	919	0
Aazom	94	0
Aazom Bond 1	236	0
Argaman	228	0
Arieden	1175	-0.5
Arpel	580	0
Aryt	91.5	0
Ashkelon Plywood	745	8.4
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	232	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	132.5	0
Ashlad	472	0
Ashlad Bond A	148	-1.3
Ashot	375	0
Ashot Bond A	192	0
Ashpara	85.5	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	169	0
Ashtrom Bond 2	152	0.7
Ashtrom Ind.	578	8.8
Ashtrom Prop.	224	-2.6
Astrom P Bond 1	82	-0.5
Astrom p warrant a	49.8	0
Astrum Bond C	95	0
Astrum Warrent 2	34.6	0
Atiton	69	0
Atmor	1772	0
ATX	145	1
ATX Bond A	148.5	0
Atzmon	309	2.4
Azra	4048	3.7
Awarot	466	1.3
Awarot Bond A	155.5	0
Averbuch Formica	686	1.5
Avi	500	1.2
Avn Bond 1	148.5	0.3
Avn Bond 2	90	0
Avrier	1.8	0
Awrot Bond 2	90.5	0
Awrot Warrant 2	69	5.3
Ayalon	533	0
Azimuth	392	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	169	0.3
Azorim Warrent A	620	-4.8
Azorim Warrent B	545	-1.1
Badash Bond 1	69.3	0
Bailili	377	-1.1
Balantine 1	514	4.3
Balantine Bond A	127	0
Balantine Warrant 2	12	100
Balron	4516	10
Bama'asal	100	3.9
Bama'asal Bond A	139	0
Bar	328	0
Bar Bond A	113	0
Barad	298	0
Basanowitz	765	10.1
Basanowitz Bond 1	0	0
Barkan	725	0.7
Barsel	130	0
Bartal	131.5	0
Basmat Moshe	183.5	0
BaySide Bond 2	68.1	0
BaySide Warrant D	2540	0
Beit Shemesh	1170	0
Belmon	257	-8.8
Ben Yakar Bond A	167.5	0.3
Ben Yakar Bond B	83.5	0
Ben Yakar Gat	4223	2.3
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	11.6	-0.9
Berman	153.5	0.5
Bilu	1012	0
Bilu Bond A	152	0
Binar	806	-5
Bet	255	0
Bet	85	0
Bolos Bond B	69	-0.7
bolos gad warrant 1	455	0
Boneh Tichon	507	0
Bonjour	507	0
Boulous Brothers	145.5	1.4
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	254	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	495	0
Boulous GD Bond A	126.5	0
Brand	91.5	7
Brill	72	0
Brok Style	36.6	1.9
Brosh	128	-0.4
Building Bank	2135	0
Building Resour.	3219	-0.5
C Holdings	889	-1.4
C-Holdings Bond 5	107.5	-0.5
C Holdings Warrant 3	54.2	-10
Carpenter 1	4808	0
Carlist	3290	3.3
Capital	513	1
Capital Bond A	114	0.4
Caprice	525	0
Cargal	688	0
Carmel	327	-2.5
Carmiel	535	-1.3
Castro	822	0
Catalana 1	555	0
CDI	208	-1.5
Ceramical	798	0
Centra	103.5	0
Centre Bond 1	128	0.4
Chem	485	0
Chayun Computers	119	1.7
Chemipol	405	0
Chim-Nir	487	0.4
Ci Systems	268	2.7
Clalab	210	1.9
Clal Computer Warrant 3	69	5
Clal Computers	10360	-0.4
Clal Industries Bond	200	0
Clal Israel 5	462	-2.2
Clal Rebal	58069	0
Cohen Bond	190	0
Cohen Dev.	399	0
Cohen MM	195	-0.3
Cold Storage 1	1600	0
Cold Storage 5	8590	0
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	248	0
Compl	207	0.5
Compl Warrent 1	19.5	0
Compulite	195.5	0
Comtech	296	0
Comtrare	958	2
Contal	847	-1.1
Contractors	20849	0
Coral Beach	1031	0
Credit Line	3.9	0
Credit Lines Bond A	92.5	0
Cyclone 1	2030	0
Cyclone Bond 1	241	0
Cyclone Bond 2	145	0
Dafron	1588	0
Dafron Bond 1	238	0.4
Dalin	3	0
Dan Rent-A-Car	725	0
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	158	-0.6
Danbar 1	3477	-4.5
Danber 5	16911	10
Danber Bond A	275	0
Danber Resources	6361	0
Danber Resources Bond B	181.5	0.3
Danber Tech.	8544	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	154.5	0.3
Daniel	58.5	5.3
Daniel Bond A	90.5	0
Daniel Personnel	2990	0.7
Daniel Warrant 2	885	5.8
Dankner Bond 1	203	-0.5
Dankner Bond 2	139	9
Dankner Bond 3	90.1	-1.2
Dankner Warrant C	307	0
Dankner Warrant D	45	0
Danly	838	0
Darad	99.5	0
DARBAN BOND 2	98.2	0
Darban Bond A	189.5	1.8
DARBAN W2	112	1.8
Darbon Warrant 3	115	9.6
Darex	139	-0.7
Darlon	119.5	0
Dash Investment	804	0.5
Data	515	0
Dedalon Systems	324	2.5
Degem Systems	409	1
Delek Drillings	8.5	0
Delek Oil	1480	-2
Delta 1	2282	2.5
Delta 3	6997	4.7
Deshpy	1138	0
Digal	151	0.3
Dimard	1694	0
Discount 01	0	0
Dolev	409	0.7
Dolev Bond A	137.5	0
Dolev warrant 1	65	0
Domicar	459	0
Domicar Bond	148.5	-0.3
Dor Chlim	890	-2.5
Dovc w1	191	9.2
Dovw	57.5	0
Douf-c1	94	-1.1
Dori Engineering	484	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	137	-0.4
Doyrat Bond A	134.5	0
Dovrat Shrem	1227	7.3
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 9	80	0
DSI	1289	-1.5
Dubek M	2.2	0
Dubek S	2.3	-4.2
Dunitz	292	0
DYG Industries	504	4.8
E & M Computing	1105	1.3
Edgar Albani	116.5	0
Edgar Industries	172	0
Edgar Inv.Bond G	83.5	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 4	0	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	25	0
Elbar Bond A	98	0
Elnt	235	-6.4
Elsamex	349	2.1
El Bad	1744	0.2
El Quant	737	0
El Can8 Bond 1	153.5	0
Eldd	445	-0.4
Elad Bond A	170	0
Elad Bond B	140	0
Elad o3	73	0
Elad w5	51	-4.7
Elbit Computers Bond B	119.5	0.8
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	909	0
Elden Tech.	179.5	9.8
Electronics Line	545	-0.9
Elgar	4883	10
Elishav	356	0
Elitech Ind.	792	5.5
Elkam	389	-1.1
Ella	491	0
Ella Bond A	144.5	0
Elsan	3306	0
Elron Warrant 2	1956	0
Emek	127	0
Emyte	559	0
Engel Const.	932	0
ESC	1947	-0.5
Eshed Robotech	212	1.4
Esso	369	2.5
Evergreen	2779	0
Excellence	1968	0
Export Inv.	830	-3
Extra	170	-0.3
Feldman	157	-4
Feldman Bond A	149	-1.7
Feldman Inv.	187	0
Feldman Warrant 3	18.7	0
FenResearch	125.5	-2
Fenchelwenger 1	9980	2.1
Fenchelwenger 5	47600	-2.1
Fibalit	2892	0
Five J Jewelers	287	1.4
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	122.5	0
Formica Source	199	0
Frutaron	341	0
Gahelet	16925	0
Galcom	213	0
Galran	1228	-0.2
Gama	219	-2.2
Gamatronic	592	0
Gamlit	1327	0
Gan Shmuel Bond A	98.5	0
Gan Shmuel Warrant 3	239	-1.7
Gan Shmuel	943	0.2
Ganel Hadar	583	0
Gap Development	114.5	-5
Gap Holdings	298	0
Gap Warrant 2	19.2	0
Gazit	881	-1
Gazit Bond B	148	0
Gazit Bond C	117	0.4
Gazit Warrant 4	0	0
Gibor Bond 1	85	0
Gibor Bond A	85	0
Gibor Sabrina	62	0
Gibor Sport	583	0
Gibor Warrant 2	75.5	0
Gilboa	137	0
Gillo	130	0
Gilltek	1404	0.8
Givot Olam Oil	109.5	-0.5
Glob Rit	825	0.5
Golan	610	0
Gold	486	-1.6
Golden Hotels	351	0
Golden House Bond 1	237	0
Golani	155	-3.1
Granit Bond	140	0.1
Granit Bond 2	138	0.1
Green Software	230	0
Greenberg	707	-8.9
H. Electronics	85	0
H. Mor	1009	0
Habas	2795	-10
Habas Bond 1	1315	0
Hacber 1	20700	1.3
Hacber 5	68589	2.5
Hacber Ins. 1	700	-0.3
Hacber Ins. 5	3091	-1.2
Hadarim Bond1.	111.2	0
Hadarim Warrant1	1280	10.2
Hagal	358	10.2
Hagal Bond B	152.5	0
Hamelior	409	0
Hanal	7.2	0
Hanel Bond A	410	0
Hanin Esh	532	0
Hanon	180.5	0
Hashahaf 1	217	-0.5
Hashaf Bond A	141.5	0
Hed Azzi Music	404	0
Heon 1	10385	0
Heon 5	42779	0
HL Service Bond 2	176.5	0
HL Service Bond 3	142.5	0
HL Services	2162	0
Hod	139.5	2.3
Hod	899	0
Holit	113.5	0
Hydrolics	158.5	0
IBS Industries	594	0
IBS Warrant 1	100.5	0.5
Ilan Gat	185	-0.5
Ilan Gat Bond A	141	0
ILDC Bond 8	250	0
ILDC Hotels	350	5.1
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	182.5	0.3
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	85.5	-1.5
ILDC Insurance	339	0
ILDC-Insurance Bond A	131	0
Imco	1378	0
Ind Bld Warrant 3	64.4	-6.4
Ind Bldgs R1	43	-2.3
Ind.Dev.Bank C	282	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2640	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2694	0
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1709	0.2
Independence Mort	30922	-2
Inlandcasma	820	0
Interglasma 1	3788	2.5
Interglasma 5	15518	0
Iscar	1568	-2

	LAST	CHANGE*
Ispro	3886	-0.5
Isracolor	544	1.7
Israel Corp. 5	109800	4.4
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	194.5	0.4
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	175.8	-0.6
Isralcom	1378	-1
Israleon Bond B	258	0
Israleon Bond C	88	0
Israleon Warrant 3	6.3	0
Isramco	5.8	0
Issta 1	5791	0
Issta 5	28164	0
Istas Bond A	244	0
ISTA LINES	2020	0
Jakora Bond A	180	0
Jayecor	173	0
Jayecor Bond A	110	3.8
JEC Bond B	91.5	0
JEC Warrant 3	0	0
Jerusalem Mort	196	1
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	193.5	0
Jaurnasa	30.2	0
JOEL	110.5	0
JOEL Bond 1A	221	-2.2
JOEL Bond 2	120	-0.8
JOEL Bond A	227	0
JOEL Warrant 3	3.7	0
Jodcom	183	0
Kadoori	251	-3.1
kalrice bond b	69.5	0
kalrice warrant 1	102	0
Kalrit	1175	0
Kalsalit Bond A	84	0
Kalsalit warrant 2	305	0
Kamour	545	0
Kamour Bond G	130	-0.4
Kamour Warrant H	0	0
Kanaaot	1090	4.7
Kanal Warrant G	1.3	0
Kanfoot	26.4	15.8
Kanfoot Bond A	45	-9
Kardan 1	420	0
Kardan 5	1950	-1
Katz	125	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3630	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	227	0.4
Kenfax	357	0
Kesher	776	0.3
Kesher Bond A	144.5	-1
Keter	678	-0.4
Kind	18.9	0
Kiod Bond A	35.3	0
King	381	0.3
Kinneret	175.5	0
Kitachi Onur	181.5	0
Kitahrel Taufe	940	0
Kitat	523	0
Kitat Bond A	159.5	0
Kitat Bond A	118	0.4
Kitat Warrant 1	5.8	-12.5
Kitt Ind. 5	7738	0
Koor Bond 5	149.5	-0.1
Kopel	214	0.5
Kopel Bond 1	232	0
La Nationale Bond A	137.5	0
La Nationale Pref	76	5.4
Lachish	4469	0
Lamont	831	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	2	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	75	0
Lasers	403	0.8
Lavlav	830	-10
Lazrick Bldg	500	0
Lazrick Comm Ctrs	157	0
Lazrick Commercial Centres Bon	122.5	0
Lazrick Ind Bldgs	360	-10.1
Lazrick Industrial Bldgs. Bond	138	-1.1
Leader Warrant B	132	10
Lego	465	-7.3
Leumi Mortgage Bond 154	0	0
Leumi R4	51.5	0
Lewenthal	303	-10.1
Levi	859	0
Levi Bond A	136	0
Levi Bond B	86.5	1.1
Levi Warrant 2	90	-3.2
Levinstein Bond A	80.5	0
Levinstein Warrent 2	391	-1.5
Levinstein	1009	8
Liser	457	0
Lidan	1329	0
Lishit 1	190	-10
Lishit 5	705	0
Lipid	750	9
Lipid Bond 1	153.5	0.3
Lightenge 1	469	0
LMS	255	6
Lipman	2705	-0.5
Lipski	2768	0.8
Lipski Bond A	168	0
Liraz Bond A	153	0
Locten	214	0
Lodzia 1	1422	2.2
Lodzia 4	4803	0
Lubot Gadil	50.5	0
Lubot Gadil Bond 1	136.5	0
Lumir	3369	-0.7
Ma'ariv	2470	-1.2
Ma'ariv Bond A	130.5	-1.1
Maabarot	1285	0
Maapel	1049	0
Maapeli Bond A	138	0.4
Maapeli Bond B	117	0.4
Maapeli Bond C	77.5	0
Maapeli Warrant 3	158	-0.3
Madi	984	0.5
Magnan	173	0
Magnam Bond A	173.5	0.8
Magnam Bond B	124.5	0
Magnet	1481	0
Magnet Warrant 1	3.1	30.6
Magnet	51	1
Magnus Warrant 1	2	0
Magor 1	2318	-2
Magor 5	9748	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	559	0.5
Magor hldgs. Warrant A	13.2	0
Maiol	350	0
Maiol Bond A	0	0
Mak	68.5	0
Malibu 1	910	5.3
Malibu 5	4500	0
Malibu Bond B	174.2	0
Malta	980	-0.2
Man	144	0
Man Bond A	230	0
Mantar	53	0
Marathon	98	0
Marathon Insured	111.5	0.5
Mario Lazrick Constr. Bond 1	187.5	0.5
Mario Lazrick Constr. Bond 2	145.5	0
Maritime Bank	1715	0.2
Maritime Bank Bond A	187	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	137.5	0
Maritime Bank Warrant 6	0	0
Mashav	879	0
Mashbir	838	0
Meshov	471	-0.6
Meshov	105	0
Meshov Marketing Warrant 1	4	0
Matson	1318	-0.5
Matsor Warrant 1	336	0.3
Maxima 1	1050	0
Maxima 5	4258	0
Mazpak	686	0.4
Med. Hotels	96.5	2.1
Medtechnics	930	0
Medtechnics Bond A	132	0
Medtechnics Bond B	80.5	0
Medtechnics Warrant 2	242	0
Medtechnics Warrant 3	4.2	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	124.5	-0.4
Megason	57.5	0
Meimed	480	0
Meir Ezra	2440	0.4
Meir Ezra Bond B	238	0
Melet	444	0.9
Mellasaron Bond B	0	0
Mellasaron Bond B	89	0
Mellasaron Warrant 3	58.6	4.6
Mendelson	259	0
Menoffim	67.5	0
Menorah Ins. 5	6210	-1.1
Mercazit	680	0
Mercazit Warrant 2	80	0
Merhav	192.5	0
Meytarit	464	0
Middle East Tube	371	0
Middle East Tube Bond A	107	-5
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	28.1	-8.9
Millenor Bond A	150	0
Millennar Bond B	83	0
Millennar Warrant 2	275	0
Minesr	127	2
Mivtach Line	465	-0.4
Mirrax	14256	0
Mirage	236	0.9
Mirage Bond A	132	0
Mirage Warrant 1	45	0
Mirpat	80	0
Mishmeret	19	0
Mishmeret Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	142	-9.4
Mishor Hahof	368	0
Mismar	124.5	0
Mivtech Shamir	3142	-0.3
Mivtech Shamir	1022	-1.3
MM Engineering	172	-2.3
MM Engineering Bond A	118	0
MM Engineering Warrant 2	0	0
Modgal	718	0
Modfin	2.1	0
Modtel	201	2.4
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	266	1.5
Molert	799	0
More Plastic Ind.	317	0
Moshkovitz	188	0
Moshkovitz Warrant 2	0	0
MTI Computers	439	3.5
Mul-T-Lock	1002	0
Mute Senter	306	0
Nachshon Fund	50	0
Naphtha	47.4	2.8
Naphtha Oil Exp.	24.8	-0.4
Nataf	581	5.3
NATSVA BOND A	99.3	0
Navigator	296	0
Navigator Property	461	0
Nechushtan Bond B	78	0
Nechushtan Prop.	186	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	130	0.4
Nechushtan Warrant 1	27.7	0
Negev Ceramics	202	-2.4
Nekuatan 1	778	-2
Nehushtan 5	3960	0
Neot Aviv	7586	0
Neosa	510	0
News Arbel	95	-1
Nevilm Hotels	421	0
Nevlot	703	0
Nile	288	0
Nilluv	1192	0
Nisco	1758	1
Nissan	251	0
NMC	410	3
Noga	1623	0.2
Noga Insurance	84.5	0.6
Nordan	11.4	0
Nordan Tech.	373	-0.3
Norlofk	882	0.3
Norlofk Bond A	143	0
Nur	69	0
NYP	975	-1
Oceana	348	2.1
Ocil Bond A	175.8	-0.1
Ocil Bond B	177.5	0
Ocil Bond C	89	0
Ocil Warrant 2	1200	10
Octova	853	-0.5
Ofek	201	0
Ofer Bro	6244	3.8
Offis	970	0
Ogden	61	0
Oheliav	774	0
Oil Fields	1.3	0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Olo-Dok	213	0
Omni	242	0
Ophtech	249	6.5
Opher	457	0
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	103.5	10.1
Osayo	3368	0.2
Ossik	266	1.9
Ossat Bond A	155.5	0
Orda	4254	0.8
Orda Bond 1	189	0.3
Orev	464	-1.1
Orlali	158	-6
Orlite	442	0
Orlite Bond A	91	0
Orlite Warrant 2	84	0
Ormat Industries Bond D	120	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	113	1.1
Orsal	294	0
Otzar Hashilton	18000	0.5
Oz	270	0
Oz alide	520	0
Packer Steel	5170	-2.1
Paltough	495	1
Parna	666	0
Parnas	2121	0
Pan Dor	275	10
Pardes	698	-0.5
Pardes Bond A	96.5	0
Passport	3038	0
Paz Chen	375	0
PCB	1538	3.8
PCB Warrant 3	0	0
Pdan Investment	57	0
Perreg	127.5	0
Perlcase	1259	1.4
Phoenix Ins. 5	19100	0
Pica Plast	551	0
Pieros	122.5	0
Pieros Bond A	137.5	0
Pilot	382	0
Plasan bond a	96.5	0
Plasan warrant 1	332	-0.9
Plasson	3600	0.8
Plasto Sac	573	0
Plasto Sheck Bond A	87	1.2
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	108	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 3	4.9	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	89	0
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2500	2
Poalim Investments Bond A	132	0
Point of Sale	5020	3.1
Polak	392	0
Polgat A	230	0
Polgat B 4	939	-0.1
Polgat Bond B	169	0
Polygon	292	-0.3
Polygon Bond 2	210	0
Ponair	252	2.4
Ponaz Warrant 1	70.5	5.2
Port	78	0
Po

Claridge lifts Koor, TASE

	LAST	CHANGE*
Tenet Health	36.5625	-0.1875
Teradyne	39.1875	-1.9375
Tesoro Pet	16.0625	-0.25
Tosco	55.75	-1.9375
Texas Instruments	53	-1.5
Texas Utilities	39.5	+0
Textron	73.625	+0.375
Thiokol	37.75	-1.625
Thomas & Betts	57.4375	+0
TimeCom	34.9688	-0.65625
Time Warner	70.5	+0.0625
Times-Mirror	62.5	-0.0625
Timken	32.875	+0.375
Torchmark	45.9375	+0
Tosco Corp	34.375	-0.4375
Toys R Us	27.5	+0.625
Transamerica	123.188	+1.4375
Transco Energy	59.875	-0.1875
Travellers Grp	55.5	-0.25
Tribune	66.875	-1.25
Triton Energy	30.875	-0.9375
TWA	14.1875	-0.625
Tyco Labs	52.25	-0.75
Tyler	7.875	+0.01.25
UAL Corp	85.5	+0
USG Corp	52.75	-1.125
UST Inc	34.8125	-0.125
USX Marathon	34.125	-1.5125
USX-US Steel	37.375	-0.0625
Ultramar Diam	35.25	-0.375
Unicom Corp	32.4375	+0.0625
Unilever PLC	58.1875	-0.0625
Unilever NV	67.5	+0.375
Union Camp	59.8125	+0.6875
Union Carbide	46.5	+0.1875
Union Electric		
Union Pacific	50.25	-0.125
Unisys Corp	19.125	+0.625
USAIR Group	72.375	+1.3125
USF&G Corp	24.5875	+0.0625
US Home	44.25	-0.0625
US Surgical	30.3125	+0.125
US Trust	83	+0.8125
US West	53.375	-0.125
United Tech	90.5625	+0.6875
Unocal Corp	36.9375	-1.125
VF Corp	49.125	-0.4375
Valero Energy	33.9375	+0.1875
Varian Assoc	55.875	-0.75
Viacom Inc	48.0625	-0.4375
Vishay	20.375	-0.125
Vulcan Materials	102.375	+0.25
Wachovia	73.875	+0.0625
Walgreen	36.625	+0.625
Wal-Mart Stores	51.3125	+1.125
Warner-Lambert	152.75	+5.75
Wash Gas Light	25.6875	-0.5
Washington Mutu	69.75	+1
Washington Post	510	+2
Waste Mgmnt Inc	24.3125	-0.0625
Watkins-Johnson	26.75	-1.1875
Weis Markets	35.4375	+0.25
Wells Fargo	316.188	-8.4375
Wendy's Intl	20.625	-0.375
Westvaco	31.3125	-0.3125
Weyerhaeuser	51.5625	+0.75
Whirlpool	67.25	-0.375
Whitman	18.0625	+0
Williams Co	30.4375	+0.0625
Winn Dixie Stos	55.0625	-0.625
Woolworth	24.3125	+0.4375
World Comm	38.5	+0.25
Worthington Ind	17.9375	+0.0625
Wrigley	76.8125	+0.875
Xerox	93.5625	+2
Yellow Freight	20.125	+0.25
Zenith Electron	6.0625	-0.125
Zero Co	35.25	-2

	LAST	CHANGE*
Lufthansa	37.5	+1.2
Mannesmann	1220	+47.5
Metallgesellschaft	38.45	+0.65
Volkswagen	1274.5	+30.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE: 9-MAR-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES*

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	2.6195	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.565	0
British Pound (1)	5.8665	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	1.9592	0
French Franc (1)	0.5843	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.796	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4044	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5576	0
Italian Lira (1000)	1.9714	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.0549	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES*

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8567.14	-2.25
DJ Transport	3468.07	+23.22
DJ Utils	274.1	+1.2
DJ Comp	2780.64	+5.89
NYSE Industr	551.53	-0.32
NYSE Transport	426.36	-3.64
NYSE Comp	328.23	-0.2
S&P 100	500.98	+1.01
S&P Spot Index	1052.3	-3.39

OTHER MARKET INDEXES*

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5818.9	+36
Tokyo Nikkei	16972.5	-159.4
Singapore all-share index	405.13	-5
Hong kong Hang Seng index	10994	+75.5
Israel Index	227.73	-2.39
Paris CAC 40	3526.99	+42.67
DAX	4715.95	-32.55
Madrid	801.32	+22.14
Swiss Market Index	7187.5	+15.3
Sydney	3280.7	+13.1
Milan	1302.12	+34.56

DOLLAR CROSS RATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound, spot	1.6767	-0
Jun future (CME)	1.6295	-0.0034
D-mark spot	1.8255	-0.0054
Jun future (CME)	0.5502	+0.0018
S-franc spot	1.4357	+0.0006
Jun future (CME)	0.6965	0
Yen spot	127.74	-0.02
Jun future (CME)	0.007825	-0
CanDlr spot	1.4106	-0.0006
Jun future (CME)	0.7096	+0.0001
AusDlr spot	0.6977	+0
Jun future (CME)	0.6968	-0
F-franc spot	6.1238	-0.0155
It Lira spot	1737.5	-5
Nlg spot	2.0587	-0.005
AutSchg spot	12.5622	-0.0347
Rand spot	4.977	-0.001
ECU spot	1.0933	+0.0007

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (CEC)	1597	-21
Coffee (May) (CEC)	149.75	+2.15
Wheat (May) (CBOT)	337.5	+3
Soybean (May) (CBOT)	665.5	+2
Sugar (May) (CEC)	9.5	-0.23
Orange juice (May)(CSC)	106.05	-0.35
Bonds Jun future	119.906	+0.71875
S and P Jun future	1065.7	-2.6

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (May) (LCE)	1060	-30
Coffee (May) (LCE)	1965	-40
Brent crude oil (Apr)(IFE)	1299	-51

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver, spot	5.08	+0.01

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES*

	Last	Change
Gold (Apr)	296	-0.2
Silver (May)	5.093	+0.025
Platinum (Apr)	382.7	+3.2
Palladium (Jun)	249.25	+5.25
High-grade copper (May)	0.8605	-0.0035

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	294.45	+0.2
Gold PM fix	293.35	-1.05
Silver fix	606.5	-2.5

Month in parentheses signals contract exp date
(Spot market listings are from approximately 23.30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 9-MAR-98)

LONDON

Allied Domecq	+9.5
BAT Inds	+1
BT	-0.5
BTR	+30
Barclays	+42
Bass	+7
Boots	-8.5
British Airways	+29.5
Diageo	+6.5
General Electric	+2.25
Glaxo	+12
HSBC (75p shs)	-15
ICI	-4
Land Securities	-7.5
Lloyds Bank	+5.5
Marks & Spencer	+8.5
NatWest Bank	+1.5
Prudential	-8.5
Reuters	+15
Sainsbury	+7.5
Shell Transport	-6.75
Unilever	+9.25

PARIS

Accor	-30
Air Liquide	+19
Alcatel Alsthom	-23
Euro Disney	-0.05
Michelin B	+0.7
Moulinex	+1
Paribas	-4
Pernod Ricard	-5
Peugeot	-0
Saint Gobain	-3

FRANKFURT

Bayer	+2.55
Daimler-Benz	+5.7

Tel Aviv

Stocks rose yesterday for a second day, led by Koor Industries amid speculation that controlling shareholder Claridge Israel is seeking to increase its holding to protect itself against a hostile takeover. Koor, Israel's largest industrial company, rose 0.5 percent to NIS 420, helping the Maof Index of 25 largest shares rise 0.75% to 301.48.

Claridge Israel Chief Executive Jonathan Kolber said on Sunday the investment company boosted its stake in the holding company last week by 1 percentage point to 27.6%.

"Claridge is trying to base its control in Koor," said Asher Sela, of the consulting division in United Mizrahi Bank.

Analysts said Koor could become the target of a control battle in the same way that Delek Israel Fuel Corp. was in recent weeks. Real estate investor Yitzhak Tshuva acquired 50% of filling station operator Delek, overcoming efforts of Discount Investments Corp. to retain control.

"Another Yitzhak Tshuva could come in and say, 'I'd like the granddaddy of them all.'" said Ira Slomowitz, a trader at Israel Brokerage and Investments.

Slomowitz speculated that Bank Hapoalim Ltd., a major shareholder in Delek that sold its stake to Tshuva, could do the same with its 22.7% stake of Koor. Bank Hapoalim gained 1.7% to NIS 8.8 yesterday.

Discount Investments, which owns 37% of Delek, and Tshuva said Sunday they agreed to share management in the company. Delek lost 0.9% to 135.1, and Discount Investments rose 1.9% to 91.

The Tel Aviv-100 Index of largest companies rose 0.71% to 290.78.

Europe

UK stocks rose, lifted by financial stocks after Halifax Plc. said it will bid for a rival mortgage lender as optimism grows of a takeover in the pharmaceuticals industry. Halifax said it would make a formal offer for Birmingham Midshires Building Society, now owned by its members, boosting hopes of another round of takeover attempts that lifted other retail banks.

Glaxo Wellcome Plc., Zeneca Group Plc. and Nycomed Amersham Plc., meanwhile, all gained on expectations Glaxo is looking to buy another drugmaker, while a number of smaller companies featured in merger talk.

"There's huge momentum behind these takeover talks," said John Hatherly, the head of research at M&G Investment Management Ltd. which has 17 billion pounds invested. "There are just enough materializing to make a difference, enough reality is coming through to keep rumors alive."

The FTSE 100 Index rose 36 points to 5818.9, after falling as much as 18.3 points earlier.



Maof 301.48 ▲ 0.75%
Dow Jones 8567 ▼ 0.03%
FTSE 5818.9 ▲ 0.62%
Nikkei 16972.53 ▼ 0.93%

Zeneca gained 47p to 2,695 and Glaxo rose 16p to 1,672 on speculation Glaxo will make an acquisition even if it isn't SmithKline Beecham Plc., which rose 2p to 810 after falling as low as 797p.

"Glaxo are talking to Zeneca if not SmithKline," said Simon Smith, an investment manager at Albert E Sharp, which handles about £4.5b. pounds in assets. "Glaxo will struggle to make the returns it has promised if it doesn't make an acquisition."

Asia

Japanese stocks fell for the fourth time in five days on concern a new proposal to spend more than 10 trillion yen ($78 billion) on public works won't revive the moribund economy. Retailers such as Seven-Eleven Japan Co. slipped as builders, the most likely beneficiaries of the package, gained.

"The 10 trillion yen announcement was a case of crying wolf once too often," said Paul Muller, a director at Schroders Japan Ltd.'s equity sales desk. "Investors are realizing that public works alone will not rectify the underlying structural problems of the economy."

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index fell 159.44 points, or 0.93 percent, to 16,972.53. The Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 11.14 points, or 0.86%, to 1276.81. Losses were futures led. Nikkei 225 index futures for March delivery traded in Osaka fell 200 points to 16,970. Those traded in Singapore fell 200 points to 16,990.

Traders said they were frustrated economy-boosting proposals outlined Sunday by Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, contained no income-tax cut measures.

The new package, to be implemented after the budget is passed for the year starting April 1, would be used for telecommunications infrastructure and would be financed by construction bonds, Yamasaki said.

"People are suspicious that the package is just to pull the market up for March book closing and question whether it will actually come to pass," said Hajime Yagi, deputy general manager at Dresdner RCM Global Investors, which handles $1b. in Japanese equities. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell modestly yesterday as technology shares slid following late Friday's profit warning from Compaq Computer, the third such warning from a top technology name in as many days.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.25 points to 8,567.14. A midday gain of 55 points had put the Dow above 8,600 for the first time and threatened to top last Tuesday's record close at 8,584.83.

Broader stock measures posted bigger losses, with the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index suffering the heaviest damage and the Standard and Poor's 500 turning lower after a flirting with a record high.

The downturn came even though bonds extended Friday's rebound, pushing the yield on the 30-year Treasury bond — a key influence on borrowing costs — fell back below 6 percent.

Early last week, the long-bond yield pushed above that level for the first time since December amid some robust economic data that spurred inflation fears.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by an 8-to-7 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,371 up, 1,581 down and 536 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 623.76 million shares as of 4 p.m., down from 663.55 on Friday.

Mark gains amid rise in German production

The dollar fell against the mark yesterday for a second day after a report showed a larger-than-expected gain in German industrial production, fueling speculation that economic recovery may be taking hold.

Traders boosted the dollar against the yen after a Japanese report showed household spending fell and Asian currencies tumbled, souring investors on Japan's currency. Industrial production in Germany rose 2.1 percent in January from December, exceeding the 0.4% gain forecast in a Bloomberg News survey of economists.

"The gain in industrial production took the dollar down," said Robert Katz, a currency trader at MTB Bank in New York. "We're seeing stronger German numbers and some people expect a turnaround there."

The dollar fell to 1.8275 marks from 1.8345 marks late Friday in London. It also rose to 127.89 yen from 127.80 yen. Yesterday's German report followed one Friday showing factory orders rose a greater-than-expected 3.3% in January.

"I don't see any reason why the mark won't gain," said Marian Bell, treasury economist at Royal Bank of Scotland in London. "German [growth] looks like it's picking up."

The dollar gained against the yen as the Japanese government reported household spending fell in January for the seventh time in 10 months, reinforcing expectations the economy is headed for recession and interest rates will remain near record lows.

"With the interest rate differential and the problems with domestic spending, the fundamentals are still there for a stronger dollar versus the yen," said Ralph DelZenero, a corporate currency salesman at First Chicago NBD Corp. in Chicago.

Japanese household spending fell 4.0% in January, compared with the 3.8% decline economists had expected.

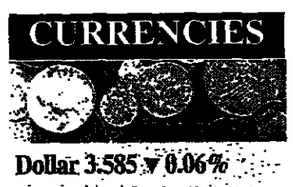
Rounding out the yen's gloomy outlook, Asian currencies, led by the Indonesian rupiah, tumbled after the International Monetary Fund said it will delay the next $3 billion installment in its aid package to Indonesia until at least April. That would give the organization time to see whether Indonesia implemented required reforms.

"Events in Indonesia are having a profound effect on the yen," said David Becker, senior currency trader at Bank Austria in New York, who said the dollar could rise to 135 yen in coming weeks. "Until something definitive happens with Indonesia, the yen will remain weak."

The rupiah fell as much as 18%, extending its loss this year to almost 50%, and the Malaysian ringgit dropped more than 2.5%. Those declines hurt the yen because Japan is the biggest creditor for Indonesia and many other Asian countries.

Asian countries also are among Japan's biggest trade rivals. Weakness in their currencies lower the price of their exports, stepping up pressure on Japanese exporters.

The yen also was dragged down by expectations a report due Friday will show Japan's economy contracted 0.3% in the fourth quarter from the previous quarter, leaving the economy on track to shrink 0.2% in the year ending March 31. That would be the worst performance since the year ended March 31, 1975, when soaring oil prices sent the economy into a tailspin. The US currency's rise against the yen was capped, though, by prospects the Japanese government will take further measures to lift its economy from a seven-year slump. (Bloomberg)



Dollar 3.585 ▼ 0.06%
Basket 3.8195 ▼ 0.12%
Mark 1.9592 ▼ 0.12%
Sterling 5.8665 ▼ 0.13%

Oil falls on concern OPEC won't cut production

Oil

Crude oil fell yesterday as Saudi Arabia is unlikely to attend a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries next week, meaning the group can't boost prices by cutting production. Oil prices have declined 28 percent since OPEC agreed to raise output 10% in November, and prices have been underpinned by perceptions the March 16 meeting could become a full ministerial meeting that could cut production.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, April Brent crude futures fell as much as 35 cents, or 2.6%, to $13.24 a barrel.

Others

Coffee climbed amid concern that hoarding by Vietnamese growers is leading to lean supplies. Supplies of London-traded robusta coffee are currently lean as Vietnamese growers withhold beans from this year's record crop due to falling prices. The coffee futures contract closest to expiration dropped more than 3 percent in London last week.

Vietnam, which may be set to overtake Indonesia as the largest producer of robusta coffee, could produce as much as 6.35 million 60-kilogram bags in the crop year ending September 30, a Vietnamese coffee industry official said earlier this year.

Coffee for May delivery rose $25 to $1,655 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

May cocoa fell 12 pounds ($19.65) to 1,068 pounds a metric ton on Liffe. Hot, dry weather conditions related to El Niño caused less damage than expected to Ghana's cocoa harvest in the current crop year, said John Henry Newman, chief executive of the government-run Ghana Cocoa Board.

Ghana, the world's second-largest grower of cocoa after the Ivory Coast, had "a little more water in the ground than we had anticipated," which allowed the Ghanaian mid-crop to progress better than that of Ivory Coast, Newman told reporters during a meeting of the International Cocoa Organization, a body representing both cocoa consumers and producers.



Gold $294.25 ▼ 0.2%
Crude Oil $13.14 ▼ 0.45%
CRB 225.51 ▼ 0.33%

Precious metals

Lead rose yesterday. Lead inventories monitored by the London Metal Exchange fell 1,150 metric tons to 104,000 tons, the exchange said in its daily report. Three-month lead rose $7 to $556 a ton on the LME.

Aluminum rose as an increase in German industrial production indicated demand from makers of cars and other machinery remains strong in the world's third-largest consumer. Industrial production in Germany rose a larger-than-expected 2.1% in January from December, as machinery production gained 6.7% according to a government report. (Bloomberg)

US bonds rise amid optimism for subdued inflation

US bonds rose for a second day yesterday, pushing 30-year Treasury yields to 6 percent, amid optimistic reports this week on February retail sales and producer prices that suggest inflation remains subdued.

"We'll get another good round of inflation numbers," said John Burgess, who oversees some $70 billion of fixed-income securities at Bankers Trust Global Investment Management. "There doesn't seem to be to anything out there to derail the market."

Burgess said 30-year yields may fall to 5.90% in the days ahead.

Bonds rose Friday as the highest yields in three months and expectations for tame inflation lured buyers, even after a report showed stronger-than-expected jobs growth last month. Inflation erodes the value of securities that pay a fixed rate of return.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 6/32, or $1.88 per $1,000 bond, to 101 21/32, pushing its yield down 2 basis point to 6%, the lowest in a week. The two-year note yield fell 1 basis point to 5.56%.



US 30-year T-bill yield
6 ▲ 0.02

The government reports on retail sales for February on Thursday, and producer prices on Friday. Retail sales probably rose 0.5%, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg News. The producer price index probably fell 0.2% last month, economists said.

Economic numbers over the next couple of weeks "aren't going to kill the market," said Vincent Verterano, government bond trader at Nomura Securities International Inc. "There's a little buying going on."

Yields on 30-year bonds rose 10 basis points last week, making it the worst week for bonds in a month. Now, some investors are eager to buy bonds at current levels, with inflation at its lowest in more than a decade. Consumer prices rose just 1.6% in the 12 months that ended in January, putting bonds' real yields – or yields minus the rate of inflation – at 4.41%, the highest in more than six months.

"As long as inflation remains low, bond yields will not venture much above 6 1/8%," on the 30-year Treasury, said Kirit Shah, an economist at Sanwa International. (Bloomberg)

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.540	5.530	5.590
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.3.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.7901	3.8513	—	—	3.8195
U.S. dollar	3.5573	3.5147	3.49	3.67	3.5650
German mark	1.9543	1.9767	1.91	2.01	1.9592
Pound sterling	5.8151	5.9089	5.71	6.00	5.8665
French franc	0.5801	0.5895	0.57	0.60	0.5843
Japanese yen (100)	2.7754	2.8202	2.72	2.86	2.7967
Dutch florin	1.7262	1.7541	1.69	1.78	1.7368
Swiss franc	2.3871	2.4257	2.34	2.46	2.4044
Swedish krona	0.4435	0.4507	0.43	0.46	0.4467
Norwegian krone	0.4675	0.4751	0.45	0.49	0.4717
Danish krone	0.5105	0.5188	0.50	0.53	0.5139
Finnish mark	0.6410	0.6514	0.63	0.67	0.6457
Canadian dollar	2.5200	2.5607	2.47	2.60	2.5376
Australian dollar	2.3701	2.4084	2.32	2.45	2.3899
S. African rand	0.7136	0.7252	0.64	0.73	0.7190
Belgian franc (10)	0.9433	0.9586	0.92	0.98	0.9493
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7650	2.8096	2.71	2.85	2.7846
Italian lira (1000)	1.9782	2.0102	1.94	2.04	1.9914
Jordanian dinar	5.0033	5.0840	4.94	5.26	5.0549
Egyptian pound	1.0100	1.0900	1.01	1.03	1.0521
ECU	3.8439	3.9120	—	—	3.8790
Irish punt	4.8291	4.9070	4.74	4.96	4.8652
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2957	2.3326	2.25	2.37	2.3113

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Club-vs.-country rugby row continues

LONDON (Reuters) – England coach Clive Woodward called on his squad yesterday to declare their availability for this year's tour of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

A potentially ruinous club versus country split was reopened last week when Northampton indicated they would not release their international players for summer tours.

In response, Woodward insisted Northampton's British Lions Paul Grayson, Tim Rodber and Matt Dawson must not bow to pressure from their club.

Woodward said the squad must confirm their availability this week for the tour or be omitted from the side to face Scotland in the next round of the Five Nations at Murrayfield on Sunday week.

"This is not club versus country, it's about playing for England. If they don't want to go on tour they don't have to," he said.

"If they don't want to play for England, they can go away and play for their clubs and I'll find someone else," Woodward added.

"I can't be held to ransom. I'd like to think the England players will do what they said they'd do when they signed international contracts back in October. If I had to persuade anyone to play for England, it would be a very sad day. Our objective is to win the World Cup in 1999. I've told the players this is potentially putting a knife through our dreams." Brittle confirmed the tour would go ahead even if some players were forced to stay at home.

"The tour is on and I believe we will be selecting from the best players," he said.

He also called on the club's representatives to return to the negotiating table to sort out the power struggle.

England are scheduled to play New Zealand in two Tests within eight days on June 20 and June 27, in between internationals against Australia on June 7 and South Africa on July 4.

The Australian Rugby Union has asked the International Rugby Board (IRB) to ensure both England and Scotland send full-strength teams to to Australia this year.

ARU managing director John O'Neill said the union had asked the IRB to enforce their own charter which stipulates that players must put country before club.

And New Zealand Rugby Football Union chairman Rob Fisher has suggested a double Tri Nations series as an alternative to hosting a tour from an understrength England side.

The row between the RFU and the clubs has been simmering since the game went professional in 1995.

The previous RFU were guilty of a hugely expensive error in allowing the national team's contracts to lapse, rich team owners promptly stepped in as alternative employers and Twickenham has been trying to claw back control of the players since.

The clubs, meanwhile, have splashed out millions on players and facilities and cannot afford to lose their highest-profile players to a union which would release them for only a handful of club games a season.

They refused to attend a presentation by Fran Cotton, vice-chairman of the RFU's management board, which outlined his vision of the future, and are still in dispute with the organizers of the European Cup over how television revenue is allocated.

Third goalie on standby; nations protest ticket shortage

PARIS (AP) — FIFA announced yesterday that, for the first time, World Cup nations can keep a third goalkeeper on standby at home to make more room for field players on the 22-strong squad.

The move came under immediate criticism at a World Cup workshop for the 32 qualifying nations.

Belgian coach Georges Leekens immediately swept the move off the table, arguing three goalies on location was an absolute necessity.

He said it would be "idiotic" to bring only two goalies to soccer's premier event.

The third goalkeeper will only be allowed to come to France in case of an injury to one of the other goalies, and would not be allowed to join the team to compensate for a red card or any other form of suspension.

If a World Cup team went for the two-goalkeeper strategy, it would allow a nation to select a 20th field player but leave itself exposed with no goalkeeper on the bench in case of a suspension.

The issue of adding more players to the 22-strong roster was highlighted during the 1996 European Championships, when Germany was hit with so many injuries that it feared it would not be able to field a balanced team for the final against the Czech Republic.

Tickets hopes fading

Football associations with teams at the World Cup finals who were hoping to get significantly more tickets for their fans look set to be disappointed.

"I'm very pessimistic about more tickets. We have protested and so have England, Scotland and Cameroon," Jan Peeters, general secretary of the Belgian Football Association, said yesterday.

Belgium have been offered about 6,000 tickets for their game against the Dutch whereas more than 70,000 fans have applied for seats.

The French organizing committee (CFO) claimed they had followed guidelines drawn by FIFA and said there was not much room for change.

Francis to stay at Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) – Trevor Francis has changed his mind about resigning as manager of English first division club Birmingham City.

The former England international striker surprised club officials by announcing he had quit after Saturday's 1-0 win over Queens Park Rangers.

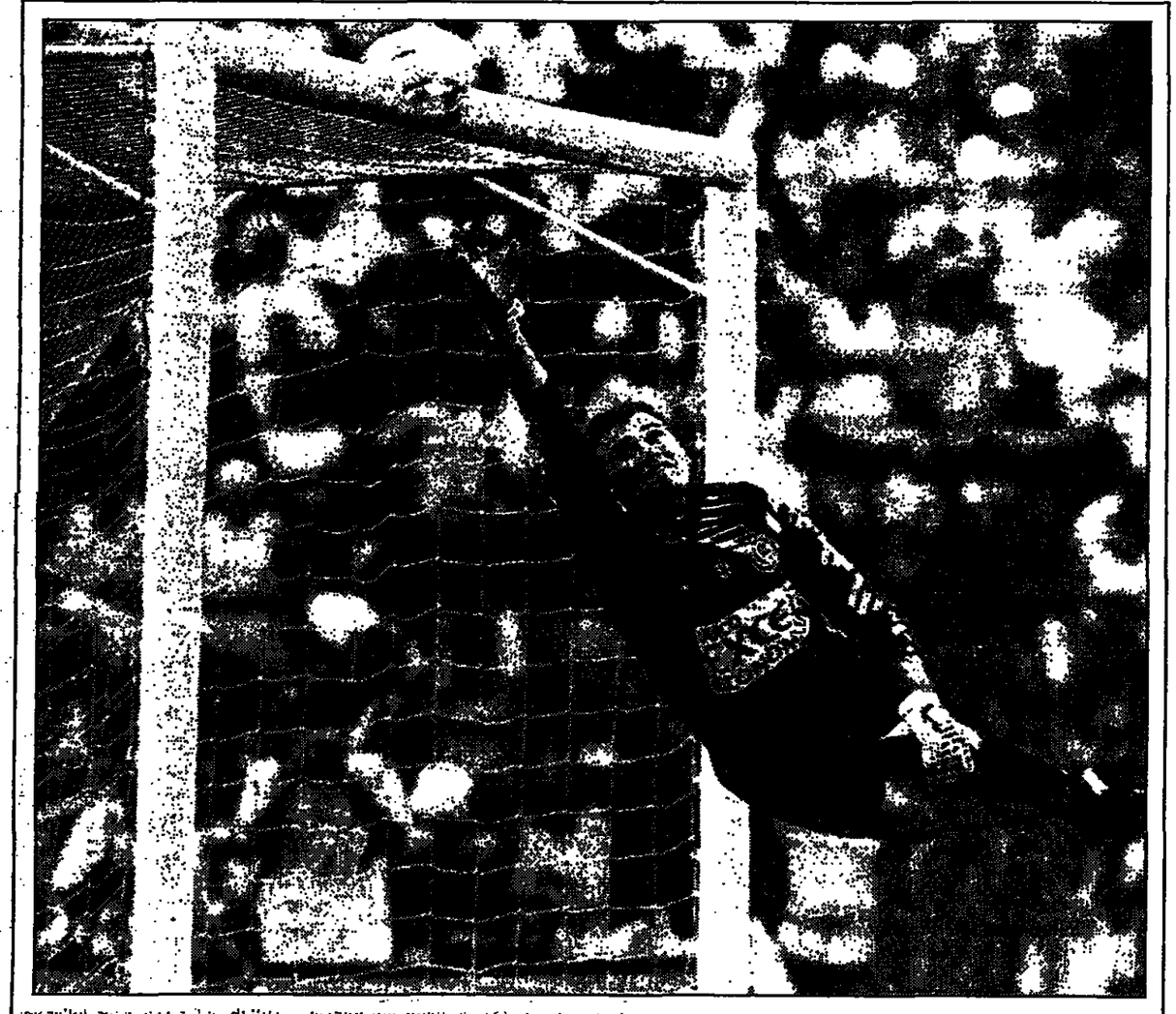
He was incensed that his wife, Helen, and son Matthew, had been abused by drunken fans.

But after talks with chairman David Gold, Francis bowed to pressure from supporters and his players to return yesterday

The former Nottingham Forest, Sampdoria and Birmingham forward will be back in charge for today's first division clash at promotion rivals Sunderland.

SCOREBOARD

FA Scottish Cup quarter-final: Rangers 0, Dundee 0. Replay March 17.



LUCKY BOUNCE – Corinthians goalkeeper Ney dives in an attempt to stop a shot by Ituano's Ronaldo Alfredo during a Sao Paulo match. The ball bounced off the goalpost in the 1-1 draw. (Reuters)

Austria's Davis Cuppers will hold training camps here

Austria's Davis Cup squad will hold two training camps in Israel during the week before the tie at Ramat Hasharon from April 3-5.

The squad, comprising eight players, will first practice at the Jaffa Tennis Center from March 25 and then move to Ramat Hasharon from March 29.

The tie will determine which country advances to the playoff in September for the World Group.

Among the spectators at the matches will be Austria's new ambassador in Israel, Wolfgang Paul, who announced his intention to host a special reception for the two teams.

Tickets for the tie are on sale at specially reduced prices. A family pass for four people is NIS 50 per day, a ticket for an adult and a child is NIS 30 per day and the price for an adult is NIS 25.

(Heather Chait)

McLaren avoids sanction over 'team orders'

PARIS (Reuter) – The McLaren team will not be punished by motor racing chiefs over the way Mika Hakkinen was allowed to win Sunday's Australian Grand Prix by his team mate David Coulthard.

The International Automobile Federation's (FIA) decision yesterday followed a formal complaint by organizers of the Melbourne race in which Britain's Coulthard was leading when he let Finn Hakkinen overtake him.

The FIA said in a statement that 'team orders' specifying the finishing order of drivers within a team had existed in motor sport since the beginning of the century.

It would therefore not be right to criticize or sanction Mclaren for what it did at Sunday's grand prix, the statement added.

Coulthard said after the race he had pulled aside two laps from the finish to allow Hakkinen to win his second successive race after the season-ending European Grand Prix at Jerez last year.

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Jordan dazzles during Bulls' win over Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 42 points with a dazzling display of shooting as the Chicago Bulls beat the New York Knicks 102-89 Sunday in what may have been Jordan's last game at Madison Square Garden.

Jordan shot 17-for-33 from the field, with some of his baskets coming on moves as outlandish as his signature line of shoes were considered back in 1984 when they first came out of the box.

Jordan's evening included a pair of over-the-shoulder shots on which he was fouled, an array of fadeaway jumpers from all angles and a 360-degree spin ending in a slam worthy of his dunk contest days.

Scottie Pippen added 25 points and Dennis Rodman had 20 rebounds for the Bulls. Allan Houston scored 24 points and Charlie Ward had a career-high 15 assists for New York, which lost its third straight.

Lakers 96, Pistons 89

Shaquille O'Neal scored 20 of his 32 points in the second half and grabbed 13 rebounds as host Los Angeles reached a season-high 24 games over .500.

Rick Fox added 22 points; Derek Fisher had his first career double-double with 13 points and 11 assists, and Elden Campbell had 13 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers, who won their third straight following a report that they were on the verge of firing coach Del Harris.

Reserve Jerry Stackhouse led the Pistons with 23 points on 8-of-9 field goals and 6-of-8 foul shots. Grant Hill had 19 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Detroit.

Wizards 100, 76ers 91

Rod Strickland displayed his full range of scoring moves to score 26 points and dish out 10 assists as Washington held off Philadelphia for a home win.

Chris Webber added 23 points as the Wizards, who won for the fifth time in seven games, moved within a half game of eighth-place Cleveland in the battle for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Strickland also helped hold Allen Iverson to 16 points on 4-for-14 shooting. Derrick Coleman led Philadelphia with 21 points before limping off the court with a sprained left ankle midway through the third quarter.

Sonics 99, T-wolves 98 (OT)

Vin Baker scored 27 points as visiting Seattle erased a 13-point second-half deficit to snap a two-game losing streak.

Kevin Garnett's turn-around jumper to win the game for Minnesota bounced off the front of the rim as time expired.

Baker was 15-of-21 from the free-throw line, including 7-of-8 in the third quarter, when the Sonics started a 15-0 run that erased a 71-58 deficit.

Gary Payton had 22 points, while Ellis added 13.

Sam Mitchell led the Wolves with 21 points and Anthony Peeler had 20.

Spurs 82, Trail Blazers 78

Tim Duncan had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Chuck Person sank a 20-foot bank shot for the go-ahead points as San Antonio won on the road.

David Robinson had just 11 points and eight rebounds before fouling out with 3:10 to play.

But the Blazers, playing without injured Damon Stoudamire, couldn't overcome a horrid shooting performance by starting forwards Rasheed Wallace and Brian Grant. Wallace was 3-for-16 and Grant 1-for-8.

Pacers 104, Celtics 100

Reggie Miller scored 25 points and Dale Davis added a season-high 22 as host Indiana beat Boston for the third straight time this season.

The Pacers went on a 9-0 run to take a 94-88 lead with 6:21 remaining. Rik Smits and Dale Davis each hit two free throws in the final minute to clinch the win.

Kenny Anderson led the Celtics with 17 points and 12 assists.

Hornets 109 Nets 100

Anthony Mason converted two late three-point plays to lead visiting Charlotte to its eighth straight win.

Mason had 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter and added a team-high 15 rebounds as the Hornets moved to within a victory of tying their all-time winning streak.

Glen Rice had 31 points and Matt Geiger added 18 as Charlotte shot better than 50 percent for the eighth straight time.

Hawks 101, Cavaliers 96

Steve Smith, who had missed Atlanta's two previous games with a sore right knee, scored 33 points, including six during a late 11-3 run, as the host Hawks won for the sixth time in seven games.

Atlanta's Mookie Blaylock added 18 points, while Alan Henderson had 17 points and 13 rebounds. Tyrone Corbin added 13 points.

Grizzlies 113, Raptors 106

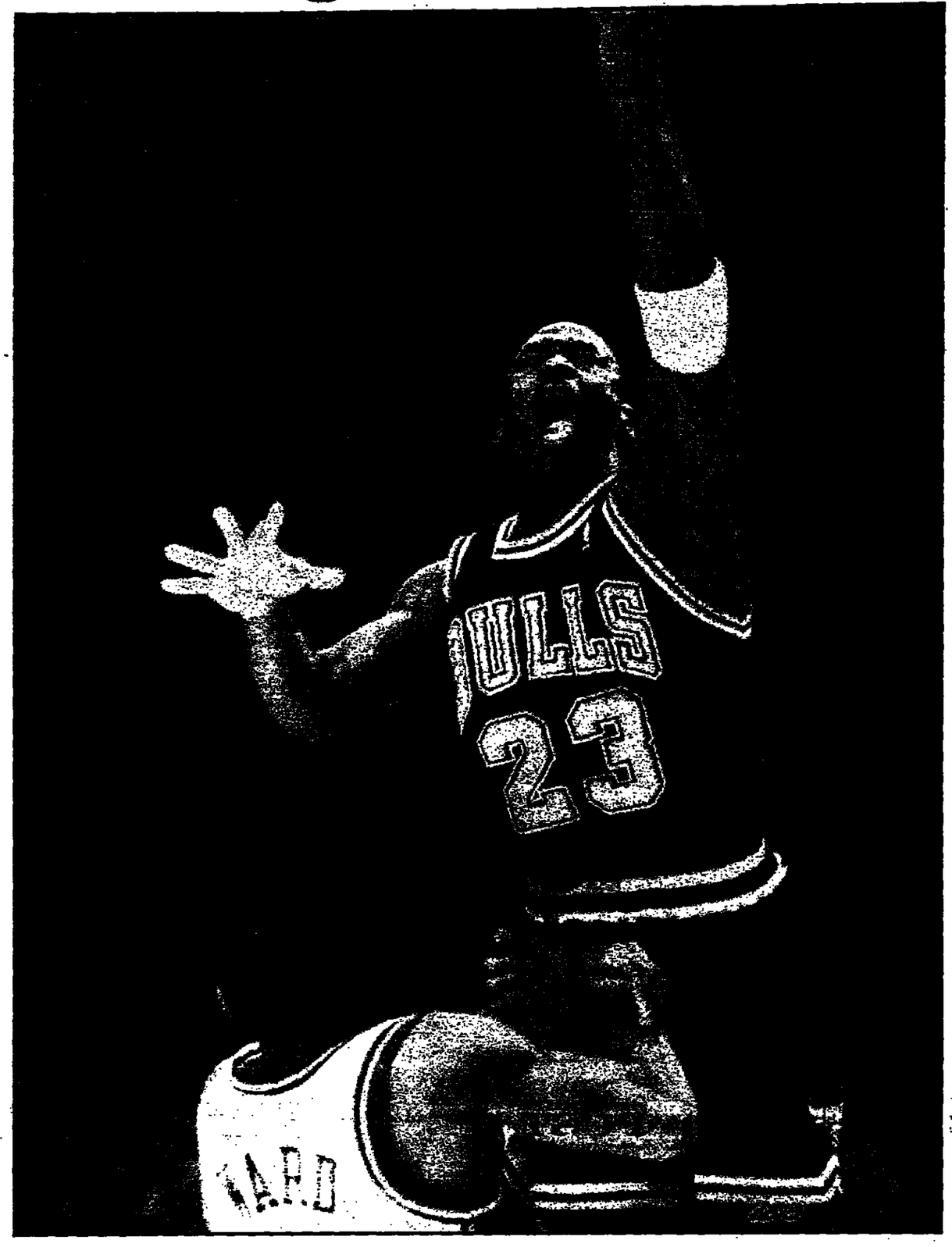
Bryant Reeves scored 15 of his game-high 38 points in the last 3½ minutes as host Vancouver ended an eight-game losing streak.

Reeves, hampered by tendinitis in his left knee for the past week, scored 13 straight points as Vancouver, which trailed 98-92 with 3:47 to play, went ahead 102-100 with 1:32 remaining.s.

Clippers 100, Nuggets 89

Eric Piatkowski scored 29 points as visiting Los Angeles handed Denver their 15th straight loss.

Lamond Murray added 19 points and Isaac Austin 18.



HIS AIRNESS – Michael Jordan soars over Knicks guard Charlie Ward in first-quarter action. (Reuters)

Cleveland 20 20 24 32—96
Atlanta 22 23 29 27—101
CLEVELAND (96) C.Henderson 4-8 1-2 9, Kemp 3-10 2-2 8, Ilgauskas 3-8 1-2 7, Person 9-16 2-2 26, Knight 6-11 4-6 16, Sura 1-4 0-1 2, Anderson 6-17 2-4 14, Potapenko 3-8 0-0 6, Scott 1-2 0-0 2, Thomas 2-3 0-0 6. Totals 38-87 12-19 96.
ATLANTA (101) Corbin 3-8 6-6 13, A.Henderson 8-17 1-7 17, Mutombo 2-8 6-10 10, Smith 12-17 8-9 33, Blaylock 7-16 3-6 18, Laettner 2-6 4-4 8, Barry 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 1-2 0-0 2, Oliver 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-74 26-42 101.
Fouled out—Kemp, Laettner. Rebounds—Cleveland 40 (Kemp 7), Atlanta 69 (Mutombo 18). Assists—Cleveland 25 (Knight 7), Atlanta 18 (Blaylock 6). Technicals—A.Henderson. A—8,512.

Boston 21 32 26 25—100
Indiana 29 22 32 21—104
BOSTON (100) Minor 1-6 3-4 5, Walker 7-15 1-2 15, DeClerco 3-7 6-9 12, Mercer 8-13 4-4 16, Anderson 7-13 3-5 17, McCarty 3-11 0-1 6, Knight 6-9 0-0 12, Barros 3-5 2-2 9, Bowen 3-4 2-2 8. Totals 39-83 21-28 100.
INDIANA (104) Mullin 4-9 3-4 12, D.Davis 10-12 2-3 22, Smits 5-7 4-4 14, Miller 8-18 7-7 25, Jackson 4-8 1-2 11, A.Davis 1-2 2-2 4, Hoiberg 1-3 1-2 4, McKey 4-4 1-3 9, Best 0-3 1-2 1, Rose 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 38-88 22-29 104.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 50 (Walker, DeClerco 8), Indiana 39 (A.Davis 7). Assists—Boston 18 (Anderson 12), Indiana 25 (Jackson 11). Technicals—Walker, Miller. A—16,726.

Charlotte 22 24 35 27—109
New Jersey 29 29 20 23—100
CHARLOTTE (109) Rice 10-20 7-7 31, Mason 4-5 4-4 12, Geiger 8-13 6-6 18, Phills 6-10 1-3 16, Wesley 7-11 0-0 17, Beck 0-2 0-0 0, Owac 1-1 0-0 2, Maxwell 1-2 0-0 2, T.Williams 1-1 3-4 5, Reid 2-2 2-3 6. Totals 38-67 23-27 109.
NEW JERSEY (100) Gill 5-12 4-4 14, Van Horn 9-19 0-0 20, Cage 2-2 0-0 4, Kittles 8-18 2-2 21, Cassell 5-17 10-10 21, Gatling 5-11 1-3 11, MacLean 0-0 0-0 0, Harris 2-2 0-0 4, Evans 0-1 0-0 0, Douglas 3-5 0-0 8. Totals 39-87 17-18 100.
Fouled out—Gatling. Rebounds—Charlotte 45 (Mason 15), New Jersey 38 (Van Horn 8). Assists—Charlotte 17 (Mason 6), New Jersey 16 (Cassell 10). Technicals—Reid, New Jersey coach Calipario, New Jersey illegal defense 2. A—16,450

Philadelphia 21 24 27 19—91
Washington 31 23 27 19—100
PHILADELPHIA (91) Thomas 2-6 4-5 9, Coleman 5-11 11-13 21, Ratliff 6-9 4-4 16, Mckie 4-11 2-2 10, Iverson 4-14 6-8 16, M.Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Stewart 1-2 0-0 2, Shaw 3-8 1-2 7, Smith 4-10 2-2 10, Snow 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 29-73 32-36 91.
WASHINGTON (100) Webber 11-28 0-0 23, Grant 3-4 2-2 8, T.Davis 2-4 1-2 5, Cheaney 5-15 2-2 12, Strickland 8-19 10-13 26, Murray 7-17 0-0 17, Wallace 2-2 0-0 4, Whitney 0-4 5-6 5, Ham 0-0 0-0 0, Shemmgod 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-93 20-25 100.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 48 (Smith 10), Washington 62 (T.Davis 15). Assists—Philadelphia 16 (Iverson 5), Washington 25 (Strickland 10). Technicals—Webber, Washington illegal defense 3. A—20,874

Seattle 17 26 27 22 7—99
Minnesota 24 22 25 21 6—98
SEATTLE (99) Schrempf 3-11 0-0 6, Baker 5-15 15-21 27, McIlvaine 3-4 0-0 8, Hawkins 0-7 0-0 0, Payton 8-19 2-4 22, Perkins 5-10 0-0 11, Ellis 3-8 4-6 13, Anthony 3-5 2-4 9, A.Williams 2-3 1-1 5. Totals 33-82 24-36 99.
MINNESOTA (98) Garnett 7-21 5-8 19, Mitchell 10-17 0-0 21, Roberts 0-1 0-0 0, Peeler 7-17 3-4 20, Marbury 5-24 4-7 15, Parks 2-7 3-4 7, Hammonds 3-5 3-4 9, Porter 2-3 0-0 5, Carr 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 37-99 18-27 98.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Seattle 60 (Baker 12), Minnesota 72 (Garnett, Parks). Assists—Seattle 22 (Schrempf 7), Minnesota 26 (Marbury 13). Technicals—Anthony, Mitchell. A—19,006

Detroit 24 19 15 31—89
L.A. Lakers 25 17 24 30—96
DETROIT (89) Reid 1-4 0-0 2, Hill 8-17 3-3 19, B.Williams 3-11 3-4 9, Dumars 4-15 2-2 13, Hunter 4-12 0-0 9, Stackhouse 8-9 6-8 23, Mahorn 4-6 0-0 8, J.Williams 2-3 1-2 5, Sealy 0-1 1-2 1, Pollard 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-78 16-21 89.
L.A. LAKERS (96) Horry 2-3 0-0 4, Fox 8-15 5-6 22, O'Neal 12-19 8-16 32, Jones 1-5 6-6 8, Fisher 3-11 7-8 13, Bryant 2-7 0-0 4, Bennett 0-0 0-0 0, Campbell 5-10 3-3 13. Totals 33-71 29-39 96.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 44 (Hill 12), Los Angeles 53 (O'Neal 13). Assists—Detroit 21 (Hill, Hunter 6), Los Angeles 26 (Fisher 11). Technicals—O'Neal. A—17,505.

San Antonio 18 25 24 15—82
Portland 20 15 25 18—78
SAN ANTONIO (82) Perdue 1-3 1-2 3, Duncan 12-23 1-4 25, Robinson 2-7 7-10-11, Del Negro 6-13 3-3 15, Johnson 3-6 0-2 6, Gearry 2-7 0-1 4, Person 4-8 2-2 11, Jackson 1-5 2-2 4, Herrera 0-1 0-2 0, M.Williams 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 32-73 17-30 82.
PORTLAND (78) Wallace 3-16 4-4 10, B.Grant 1-6 2-2 4, Sabonis 9-14 5-5 23, Rider 9-23 5-7 23, Brunson 2-4 2-2 7, G.Grant 2-6 0-0 5, W.Williams 1-8 2-2 4, Cato 0-0 0-0 0, O'Neal 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 28-82 20-22 78.
Fouled out—Robinson. Rebounds—San Antonio 49 (Duncan 13), Portland 48 (Sabonis 17). Assists—San Antonio 25 (Johnson 5), Portland 19 (Brunson 5). Technicals—Portland coach Dunleavy, Portland illegal defense 2; San Antonio illegal defense. A—21,116

Toronto 25 31 29 21—106
Vancouver 36 25 16 25—113
TORONTO (106) Wallace 2-10 2-2 6, Camby 8-14 0-0 16, Miller 6-9 0-0 12, Christie 7-16 2-4 17, Billups 6-13 2-2 16, Rogers 1-2 0-0 2, Slater 1-1 4-4 6, Brown 7-14 3-3 21, Thomas 1-1 2-2 4, McGrady 2-5 2-4 6, Wright 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-86 17-21 106.
VANCOUVER (113) Abdur-Rahim 5-11 8-8 19, Smith 2-5 5-8 9, Reeves 12-18 14-18 38, Mack 4-10 1-2 11, Mayberry 1-3 2-2 4, Lynch 6-9 3-3 15, Hurley 2-5 2-2 6, Edwards 0-7 0-0 0, Chilcutt 1-1 4-4 6, Massenburg 2-5 1-2 5. Totals 35-75 40-49 113.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 42 (Christie 8), Vancouver 56 (Reeves 11). Assists—Toronto 20 (Miller 8), Vancouver 26 (Mayberry 7). A—16,098.

Chicago 28 15 31 28—102
New York 31 15 25 18—89
CHICAGO (102) Kukoc 3-10 0-0 8, Pippen 10-19 2-2 25, Rodman 3-8 0-0 6, Jordan 17-33 7-9 42, Harper 4-9 2-3 10, Kerr 3-5 0-0 8, Burrell 0-1 1-4 1, Wennington 1-3 0-0 2, Buechler 0-1 0-0 0, Simpkins 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 41-89 12-18 102.
NEW YORK (89) Mills 4-10 1-1 9, Johnson 9-14 2-4 20, Oakley 4-8 2-3 10, Houston 11-20 1-2 24, Ward 5-7 0-0 13, Starks 4-13 1-4 10, Cummings 1-4 1-2 3, Thompson 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-76 8-16 89.
Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 57 (Rodman 20), New York 43 (Oakley 14).
Assists—Chicago 22 (Pippen, Jordan 6), New York 24 (Ward 15). Technicals—Pippen, Oakley. A—19,763.

L.A. Clippers 30 19 22 29—100
Denver 23 33 16 17—89
L.A. CLIPPERS (100) Murray 6-11 6-7 19, Rogers 3-7 2-2 8, Austin 6-10 8-10 18, Martin 2-6 6-7 11, Piatkowski 10-15 6-6 29, Taylor 2-6 4-5 8, Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Robinson 0-2 0-0 0, Richardson 3-6 0-0 6, Closs 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 32-69 30-38 100.
DENVER (89) Battie 6-9 0-0 12, L.Ellis 7-14 4-5 20, Garrett 3-9 4-8 10, Goldwire 3-9 2-4 8, Stith 3-7 4-4 11, Newman 4-9 2-3 10, Alexander 4-13 2-2 11, Fortson 3-5 1-1 7, H.Ellis 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-74 19-25 89.
Fouled out—Battie, Newman. Rebounds—Los Angeles 43 (Austin, Piatkowski 7), Denver 48 (L.Ellis 10). Assists—Los Angeles 21 (Martin 6), Denver 17 (Goldwire 7). Technicals—Fortson, Denver illegal defense 2. A—7,808

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	43	19	.694	—
New York	34	26	.567	8
New Jersey	33	29	.532	10
Orlando	31	29	.517	11
Washington	32	30	.516	11
Boston	29	32	.475	13½
Philadelphia	21	38	.356	20½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	45	16	.738	—
Indiana	43	18	.705	2
Charlotte	38	23	.623	7
Atlanta	36	24	.600	8½
Cleveland	32	29	.525	13
Milwaukee	29	30	.492	15
Detroit	27	34	.443	18
Toronto	13	47	.217	31½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	43	16	.729	—
San Antonio	41	20	.672	3
Minnesota	32	29	.525	12
Houston	30	30	.500	13½
Vancouver	15	45	.250	28½
Dallas	13	48	.213	31
Denver	5	57	.081	39½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	46	15	.754	—
L.A. Lakers	42	18	.700	3½
Phoenix	39	21	.650	6½
Portland	34	25	.576	11
Sacramento	26	34	.419	20½
Golden State	13	47	.217	33½
L.A. Clippers	13	47	.217	33½

Sprewell: I wasn't trying to kill coach

NEW YORK (AP) – Though he admits he had his hands around the neck of his coach, Latrell Sprewell insists he never choked P.J. Carlesimo and he does not need anger counseling before returning to the National Basketball Association.

In an interview broadcast Sunday night on the television news magazine show *60 Minutes*, Sprewell said the marks on Carlesimo's neck were made by his nails and prove he wasn't choking the Golden State Warriors' coach.

"I wasn't choking P.J. I mean, P.J., he could breathe. It's not like he was losing air or anything like that. I mean, it wasn't a choke, I wasn't trying to kill P.J.," Sprewell said in his first public comments since an arbitrator reduced his punishment Wednesday.

"If you're choking someone, you don't get scratches. You get welts around your neck. It's not like I was going to sit there and kill the man. No, I would have stopped, definitely."

Sprewell attacked Carlesimo at practice Dec. 1. Two days later, the Warriors terminated the remaining three years on Sprewell's $32 million contract. The following day, the NBA suspended Sprewell for a year.

But arbitrator John Feerick ruled the dual penalties were too harsh. He reinstated the contract and reduced the suspension by five months, which means Sprewell will return to the Warriors July 1.

Sprewell will forfeit $6.4m in salary for this season, but the Warriors must pay the final two years and $17.3m of his deal — unless they trade him and another team becomes responsible for the contract.

After the attack, Sprewell left the practice gym. He returned about 15 minutes later and was restrained by teammates. The former All-Star guard said he did not try to hit Carlesimo at that time.

"It was all about the respect factor with me," Sprewell said. "It was all about P.J. disrespecting me as a man. You don't talk to people the way that P.J. talked to me. To have my pride and my respect and my manhood means more than any dollar amount."

Martin feels the chill

AUSTIN (AP) — With his fingers numb and a wind howling, Casey Martin discovered that his right to ride a golf cart had a downside on a day like this.

He never got warm in his roofless cart and struggled to a 6-over-par 78 on Sunday in the Greater Austin Open, his first competitive event since he won a lawsuit against the PGA Tour.

"It was brutal out there," Martin said after contending with 40 mph gusts and a wind chill of 21°F. "My hands were freezing and the clubs felt like I was holding metal rods. It was one of the hardest days I've ever played."

Martin isn't allowed a windscreen or a roof under PGA Tour rules and he could have used one on Sunday.

"The cart was a big disadvantage and I couldn't get loose," said Martin, who limps on his right leg because of a disability from birth. "I can't walk this course and I was considerably colder than the other guys because I never had a chance to warm up."

The 25-year-old had no birdies and six bogeys as he finished the tournament at even-par 288 well back in the field.

McDowell impresses on mound

MIAMI (AP) – Jack McDowell returned to the mound for the first time since elbow surgery last May, and the Anaheim Angels were impressed.

"They didn't hit the ball hard, for the most part," McDowell said Sunday after helping an Anaheim split squad to a 9-4 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks at Tempe, Ariz.

McDowell allowed one hit in four innings, throwing 55 pitches — 33 for strikes. He gave up a second-inning homer to Jorge Fabregas after rookie third baseman Troy Glaus dropped a popup, making one of the runs unearned.

Mariners 12, Rockies 7

At Peoria, Ariz., Jay Buhner hit a tape-measure, two-run homer as Seattle's first 10 batters reached base and the Mariners scored 11 first-inning runs. Buhner's two-run drive went completely out of Peoria Stadium and was estimated at 450 feet. Ken Griffey Jr., who went 2-for-3, added a walk and a three-run homer in the inning, helping Seattle win its seventh straight. Colorado starter Roger Bailey failed to retire a batter, allowing 10 runs, seven hits and three walks.

Angels (ss) 9, Giants 7

Gary DiSarcina hit a two-run double off the glove of a diving Bill Mueller at third base during a four-run second inning. Anaheim capitalized on the wildness of rookie starter Darrin Blood, who walked five of eight batters he faced. All five scored as Anaheim built a 6-1 lead after two innings.

White Sox 9, Giants (ss) 1

At Tucson, Ariz., Albert Belle hit a three-run homer off Kirk Reuter, and Greg Norton and Chris Snopek added two-run shots.

Reuter gave up five runs — four earned — and four hits in three innings.

Cubs 9, Athletics 5

At Mesa, Ariz., Sammy Sosa hit his first two home runs of the spring. Sosa connected off loser Kenny Rogers in the third and Gil Heredia in the fifth. Rogers, acquired in the offseason following two unhappy years with the New York Yankees, was pounded for six runs and 10 hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Brewers 8, Padres 2

At Phoenix, Darrin Jackson hit a two-run homer, and Antone Williamson and Scott Krause added solo shots. Marquis Grissom went 3-for-3 as Milwaukee won for just the third time in 12 games this spring.

Expos 11, Dodgers 7

At Vero Beach, Fla., Vladimir Guerrero hit a grand slam and drove in five runs. He is 8-for-21 (.381) this spring with three homers and eight RBIs. Hideo Nomo was knocked out after one-plus innings, allowing five runs, three hits and four walks. Nomo has been tagged for eight runs — seven earned — and eight hits in three innings this spring.

Red Sox 12, Orioles 9

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nomar Garciaparra had two doubles and a triple, and drove in two runs. Boston took advantage of the wildness of Orioles pitchers, drawing 10 walks. Six came in a six-run second, when Boston drew four consecutive bases-loaded walks and erased a 3-1 deficit. Roberto Alomar, batting from the right side for the first time since May 31, had a pair of RBI singles.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 5

At Dunedin, Fla., Felipe Crespo hit a two-run double off Joe Borowski in the ninth. Darryl Strawberry went 3-for-4 for the Yankees with two doubles, including one that drove in two runs in the seventh. Toronto starter Pat Hentgen allowed one run and four hits in four innings with five strikeouts.

Tigers 10, Indians 5

At Winter Haven, Fla., Brian Hunter hit a three-run homer in a seven-run fifth. Jason Jacome allowed all seven runs and six hits.

Rich Batchelor allowed two more hits as Detroit sent 12 men to bat in the fifth. Manny Ramirez hit a two-run homer for Cleveland, and Jim Thome followed with a solo shot.

Reds (ss) 6, Twins (ss) 4

At Sarasota, Fla., Eric Owens had two hits and three RBIs.

Flyers beat Penguins on Daigle breakaway goal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Alexandre Daigle scored on a breakaway with 56.5 seconds left in overtime to give the Philadelphia Flyers a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Sunday night.

Daigle lifted the puck high over goaltender Ken Wregget from the middle of the slot for his first goal as a Flyer.

Pittsburgh's Jaromir Jagr sent the game into overtime, scoring on a backhander from just outside the right crease with 15 seconds left in regulation. Jagr's goal came with Wregget pulled for an extra skater.

Pittsburgh 0 2 1 0—3
Philadelphia 1 1 1 1—4
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Sillinger 14 (Brind'Amour, Klatt), 4:31 (pp). Second Period—2, Pittsburgh, Werenka 3 (Lang), 3:29 (pp). 3, Philadelphia, LeClair 39 (Desjardins, Zubrus), 8:11. 4, Pittsburgh, Straka 12 (Jagr, Olausson), 9:14. Third Period—5, Philadelphia, Podein 8 (Daigle, Brind'Amour), 19:15. 6, Pittsburgh, Jagr 29 (Hatcher, Francis), 19:45. Overtime—7, Philadelphia, Daigle 6 (Brind'Amour), 4:03. Philadelphia 4-9-13-3—29. Goalies—Pittsburgh, Wregget. Philadelphia, Hextall. A—19,564.

Phoenix 0 0 1 0—1
Dallas 0 0 1 0—1
First Period—None. Second Period—None. Third Period—1, Phoenix, Numminen 7 (Quint, Roenick), 8:29 (pp). 2, Dallas, Modano 21 (Sydor, Lukowich), 13:25. Overtime—None. Goalies—Phoenix, Khabibulin. Dallas, Belfour. A—16,67

Carolina 2 0 1—3
Anaheim 0 0 1—1
First Period—1, Carolina, Primeau 20 (Kapanen, Burt), 2:18. 2, Carolina, Gelinas 9 (Hill, O'Neill), 2:56. Second Period—None. Third Period—3, Anaheim, Salei 5 (Cullen, LeBoutillier), 2:14. 4, Carolina, Rogers 14, 13:35. Goalies—Carolina, Kidd. Anaheim, Hebert, Shtalenkov. A—17,174.

Just 31 seconds earlier, Shjon Podein had put the Flyers ahead by diving over a prone Wregget and pushing the puck into the net.

Mike Sillinger and John LeClair also scored for the Flyers, and Rod Brind'Amour added three assists. Brad Werenka and Martin Straka also scored for Pittsburgh.

Stars 1, Coyotes 1

Mike Modano's goal with 6:35 left in regulation gave visiting Dallas a tie, keeping the Coyotes winless in their last nine games.

Phoenix took a 1-0 lead when Teppo Numminen's slap shot from the right point beat a screened Ed Belfour with 11:31 remaining in regulation. Numminen's seventh goal came while the Coyotes were on their seventh power play of the night.

But Dallas tied it on Modano's backhander from the slot, his 21st goal of the season.

Both goalies turned in strong efforts, with Dallas' Ed Belfour stopping 33 shots while Phoenix's Nikolai Khabibulin had 22 saves.

Hurricanes 3, Mighty Ducks 1

Keith Primeau and Martin Gelinas scored 37 seconds apart on Carolina's first two shots of the game as Carolina won on the road.

Gary Roberts added his fifth goal in five games and 14th of the season on a breakaway at 13:35 of the third period and Trevor Kidd made 21 saves to help secure Carolina's fourth consecutive victory.

Ruslan Salei scored on a backhander with 17:46 remaining.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	39	16	7	85	180	123
Philadelphia	32	20	9	73	178	142
Washington	27	24	11	65	169	164
N.Y. Rangers	19	27	16	54	153	169
N.Y. Islanders	22	32	8	52	162	174
Florida	18	31	12	48	147	176
Tampa Bay	12	41	9	33	119	205

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	32	18	14	78	182	151
Montreal	29	25	7	65	174	158
Boston	26	23	13	65	157	148
Buffalo	25	22	14	64	154	146
Ottawa	25	28	10	60	143	156
Carolina	25	30	7	57	155	172

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	38	15	10	86	187	124
Detroit	34	17	13	81	191	146
St. Louis	35	22	8	78	196	156
Phoenix	24	27	12	60	170	179
Chicago	24	27	11	59	151	157
Toronto	21	32	8	50	145	178

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	33	16	16	82	194	158
Los Angeles	28	22	11	67	176	161
Edmonton	23	30	10	56	160	181
San Jose	24	30	7	55	152	164
Calgary	19	31	12	50	164	189
Anaheim	20	33	9	49	146	189
Vancouver	19	34	10	48	177	223

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT



Carl Davis conducts the sound track to Chaplin's 'The Gold Rush' in Tel Aviv.

The Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra is hosting the Warsaw Chamber Opera in a fully staged production of Donizetti's delightful comic romp, *Don Pasquale*. Zhignev Graca is on the podium and performances take place tonight in Ein Habcresh, tomorrow in Netanya, Thursday in Karmiel, Saturday in Givat Brenner, with more performances next week (8:30).

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra takes you to the movies tonight as Carl Davis conducts the orchestra who will provide the live soundtrack for Charlie Chaplin's classic *The Gold Rush*, 8:30 at the Main Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

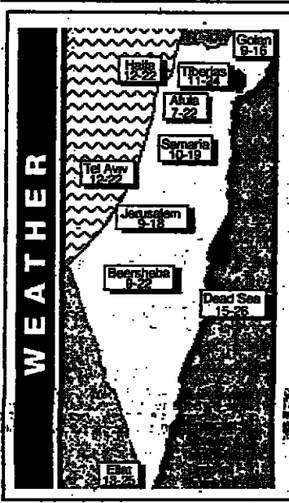
FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ TITANIC — With this wide-screen, three-hour-plus epic (the most expensive film ever made) James Cameron has managed for the first time in his overly gadget-geared career to create a picture whose razzmatazz effects flow directly from and indeed enhance its affective qualities, instead of flattening them out. It helps of course that the emotions in question are mostly of the strong, straight, unsubtle sort that lend themselves most easily to Hollywood spectacle. *Titanic* tells the old-fashioned tale of two spirited young people (Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, both quite winning) who meet and fall in love aboard the doomed luxury liner. The infamous iceberg and special effects hit much later, and by then we're already involved at a visceral level, so the fancy camera tilts, shots of the flooded staterooms and great ship breaking in two – impressive on their own – acquire added urgency and meaning. The picture and director both won Golden Globes this year. (Parental guidance suggested.)

★★★ JOHN GRISHAM'S THE RAINMAKER – As the title makes clear, this film is A Grisham: in other words, a morality play about an idealistic rookie of a Southern attorney (Matt Damon this time around) who battles the corrupt and almighty powers-that-be (an evil insurance company) in his selfless pursuit of justice (payment of medical costs to the family of a young man dying of leukemia). For all its familiar elements, though, the picture sits differently from earlier movie adaptations of the writer's work. It's a looser, funnier, and more realistic affair and one that avoids for the most part the usual Grisham-esque descent into violent outlandishness. After a sluggish introductory section in which director Francis Ford Coppola seems to be poking around for the right tone, the film hits its stride and turns into a comedy – a courtroom farce on a serious theme. With smart narration by the journalist Michael Herr and fine performances by Danny DeVito, Jon Voight, Micky Rourke, Mary Kay Place and many others. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	-01	30	08	46	p/cloudy
Beijing	03	37	10	50	clear
Berlin	-04	25	03	37	clear
Boston	03	37	04	39	rain
Buenos Aires	18	64	27	81	clear
Cairo	10	50	21	70	p/cloudy
Chicago	00	32	03	37	snow
Copenhagen	-06	21	01	34	clear
Frankfurt	02	28	13	55	cloudy
Geneva	04	39	07	45	cloudy
Helsinki	-06	18	-04	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	70	25	77	cloudy
Jo'burg	15	59	28	79	p/cloudy
Lisbon	10	50	19	66	p/cloudy
London	02	36	10	50	clear
Los Angeles	11	52	21	70	clear
Madrid	08	46	20	68	p/cloudy
Moscow	-04	25	00	27	rain
New York	01	34	03	37	rain
Nice	04	39	13	55	clear
Paris	02	36	08	46	clear
Prague	-03	27	03	37	clear
Rio de Janeiro	26	79	34	93	p/cloudy
Rome	04	39	16	61	clear
San Francisco	10	50	15	59	clear
Stockholm	-08	18	-03	27	snow
Sydney	18	64	26	79	clear
Tokyo	05	41	12	54	clear
Toronto	-04	25	04	39	cloudy
Vienna	-01	30	04	39	snow
Warsaw	-05	23	01	30	cloudy
Washington	07	45	09	48	rain
Zurich	03	37	04	39	cloudy

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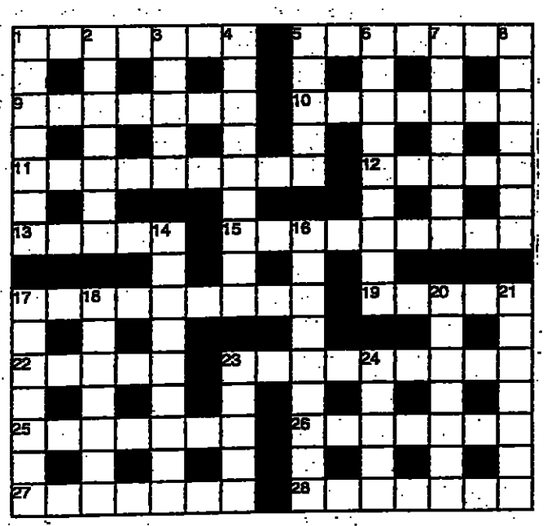
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

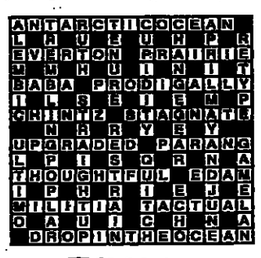
1 Stop and go after amber changes (7)
5 Stimulating apparitions? (7)
9 The crown takes a firm course, if backed (7)
10 Theatre employee—qualified in first aid? (7)
11 Advertising in advance (9)
12 Very close to being drunk? (5)
13 Striking effect of lace pattern on table-top (5)
15 Game in which kids jump and dance with spirit (9)
17 Vending machine in the chemist's shop (9)
19 In decimal it represents one and three-quarter pints (5)
22 Baggage in the holds (5)
23 Somehow resent accepting little bribe (9)
25 Book store? (7)
26 Turn up in a foreign land (7)
27 A bad-tempered pet (7)
28 Oriental up late, perhaps, is carried shoulder high (7)

DOWN

1 Fugitive takes cover in English diocese (7)
2 No brawl disturbs such a light sleeper (4-3)
3 Piece to be played by boy at party (5)
4 Birds love his crest, oddly enough (9)
5 Litter of battle (5)
6 A client I'd made perfectly agreeable (9)
7 Visible penetration (7)
8 Cancel score (7)
14 He's expected to take notes (9)
16 To harass people thus is in itself clever (9)
17 A gentle run to follow, but take the wrong turning (7)
18 Secretly watches posse in exercise (5,2)
20 A growing attachment (7)
21 You're in a sound position in this (7)
23 Cook minced meats (5)
24 A letter is all the thanks you get (5)



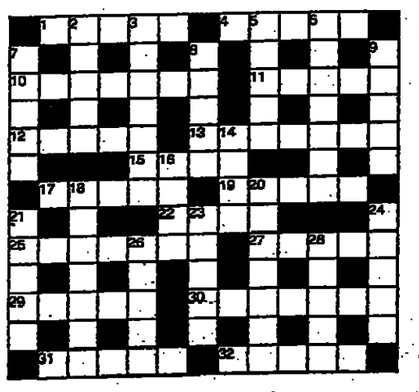
SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Pick, 5 Nick, 7 Implode, 8 Kickback, 10 Task, 12 Skit, 14 Easterly, 16 Diameter, 17 Sack, 18 Agar, 19 Tamarity, 22 Scallop, 23 Kink, 24 Task.

DOWN: 1 Park, 2 Kirk, 3 Apparent, 4 Book, 5 Neatness, 6 Kook, 9 Inkling, 11 Solicit, 13 Tamarisk, 15 Scramble, 18 Amok, 19 Teak, 20 Rept, 21 Yank.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Brownish-yellow (5)
4 Spear (5)
10 Qualm (7)
11 Distribute (5)
12 Permit (5)
13 Intrinsic nature (7)
15 Nobleman (4)
17 Seize power (5)
19 Abundant (5)
22 Catch sight of (4)
25 Abase (7)
27 Volley (5)
29 Courtyard (5)
30 Doubter (7)
31 Dote on (5)
32 Romany (5)

DOWN

2 Ethical (5)
3 Authorise (7)
5 Accumulate (5)
6 Army officer (7)
7 Composition (5)
8 Dissuade (5)
9 Direct (5)
14 Smack (4)
16 Mimicked (4)
18 Spotted (7)
20 Enigma (7)
21 Adjust (5)
23 Meaning (5)
24 Nick (5)
26 Love affair (5)
28 Water lily (5)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)
8:00 Computer Sciences
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature
10:00 For the very young
11:00 English
12:00 French
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Animation
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zap 1
15:35 The Adventures of Baron Munchausen – former Monty Python animation genius Terry Gilliam produces a masterfully spun yarn
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 The Adventures of Baron Munchausen – contd.
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo – current affairs
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 The Simpsons – The Twisted World of Marge Simpson
19:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Mine Host Meni Pe'er
21:55 Lotto Draw
22:00 GoldenEye – James Bond is still intent on saving the world. Spectacular stunts, a new female M, and international intrigue with Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean and Judi Dench
00:07 News
00:12 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Cartoons
6:43 Reshet Morning with Ben Kaspit and Sivan Doron
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 The Little Circle
12:00 Ahalan Wasahalan
12:30 Forest of Legends
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Zombit
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Junior News
15:00 Best Video Clips
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Reshef
17:30 New Zehu Zeh
18:00 Dream on You
18:30 Family and a Half – drama based on the experience of Galia Ron-Feder
19:00 Fame L.A.
20:00 News
20:31 Candid Camera
21:50 Dan Shilon Live
23:30 Oz – the first part of a new Barry Levinson series about a top-security penitentiary facility.
00:00 News
00:05 Oz, contd.
00:40 Mission Impossible
1:30 Detectives on the Wave
2:25 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

16:00 Holy Koran
16:10 Children's TV
16:30 Conan the Adventurer
17:00 To Know More
18:00 Magazine
18:30 Bordertown
19:00 Le Journal
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Game Show
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounters
21:00 Magazine
21:10 Acapulco Bay
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie
00:00 Metro Café

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:23 Madeleine
17:45 Babar
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Ed Sullivan
20:25 Acapulco Heal
21:25 The Cape
22:05 Sirens
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

Broadcasts after coverage of Knesset sitting
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 Panel in Arabic
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctor's Talk – heart transplants
20:00 News
21:00 Criminal Justice
22:00 Telekesset
22:30 Royal Canadian Air Farce
23:00 Cinema 3

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Echo Point
16:00 Splat
16:30 Reading Direction
17:00 Olivewood
17:30 Nature and Science
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Computer Sciences
19:30 Mirror – looking at Russians in Israel
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Through Our Eyes
21:00 Muses: The Mirror Language
21:45 Israeli Pop
22:00 Growing Old in a New Age
23:00 Sharpe

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Larroquette
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Dulce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:35 Suddenly Susan
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Silk Stalkings
00:30 Hart to Hart
1:20 Love Boat

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Mortal Fear (1994) – a doctor whose patients are mysteriously dying begins to investigate
13:05 Mercy Mission (1993) – a brave young pilot flying a single-engined plane from San Francisco to Sydney gets lost and is guided by a jetliner pilot
14:30 Seeing Stars – changes in post-apartheid South Africa
15:20 The Investigator (1991) – short film about an alienated world in which a private eye meets a series of different women before he finds a true friend
15:45 Hearts Adrift (1996) – a pretty girl and her widowed mother go on a cruise with a millionaire former boyfriend of the mother
17:20 Desperate Justice (1993) – a woman shoots the man who raped her daughter after he is acquitted in court. With Lesley Ann Warren and Bruce Davidson
18:50 Frame Up (1996) – a former cop is framed for murder and is aided by a rich society woman in proving his innocence
20:25 The Hallback of Notre Dame (1996) – a free adaptation of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, set in a high-school football team
22:00 Wayne's World (1992) – cult comedy about a pair of young TV stars fighting a corrupt director's attempt to move them to prime time. With Mike Myers, Dana Carvey and Tia Carrere. Directed by Penelope Spheeris
23:40 The Shadow Man (1997) – sci-fi thriller about a family, which has a disturbing encounter with aliens
1:15 Profile for Murder (1996) – a police psychologist falls in love with a millionaire accused of serial murders
2:50 Beck of Beyond (1995, 81 mins.) – a young Australian opens a gas station in the middle of nowhere to get away from life, but is brought back into the action by a gang of diamond thieves. With Paul Mercurio

■ CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
8:40 Little Bear
8:50 Make-Believe Closet
9:05 Willy Fogg
9:35 The Smurfs
10:00 Flying Classroom
10:15 Ninja Turtles
10:40 Flying Classroom
10:55 Bruno
11:15 Flying Classroom
11:15 Moesha (rpt)
11:55 Flying Classroom
12:15 Animaniacs
12:25 Flying Classroom
12:45 The Arena (rpt)
13:15 Dennis the Menace
13:30 Oscar and Friends
13:40 Surprise Garden
14:05 Treasure Island
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Flying Classroom
15:15 Ninja Turtles
15:40 Flying Classroom
15:55 Road Rovers
16:15 Flying Classroom
16:35 A Different World
17:15 Flying Classroom
17:45 Lois and Clark
18:30 The Arena
19:00 Step by Step
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:05 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Helen and the Boys – French comedy
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:15 The Last Time I Saw Paris (1954) – adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's story, set in post-WWII Paris, of Americans seeking love and meaning. With Elizabeth Taylor, Van Johnson and Donna Reed
23:30 Women on the Roof (Swedish, 1989, 85 mins.) – drama set in WWI Stockholm, following the relationship between a country girl and a bisexual bohemian photographer

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:05 Two Fat Ladies – cakes and baking (rpt)
8:40 Betty's Voyage: Nepal (rpt)
9:10 Babe Business
10:05 The Pirates of Penzance – performed by the Victoria State Center for Performing Arts
12:05 Moonshine – modern ballet performed by Nederlands Dans Theater
12:35 A Healthy Body
13:05 Conspiracies
14:00 Ultrascience: War 2020 (rpt)
14:30 Beyond 2000
15:15 Blood (rpt)
16:15 Human/Nature
17:00 Open University: Celluloid Heroes; Mastering the Internet
18:30 Open University: Earth Revealed
19:05 A Healthy Body
19:40 Belief and Disbelief – why do we believe some things and are skeptical about others
20:30 Ultrascience: how to prevent meteorites from crossing Earth's orbit
21:00 Eight on Eight with Yael Dan
21:50 Cloning Revolution
22:45 Human/Nature
23:30 Open University: We the People – Carter; Street Animals; Buried Treasures

■ NBC EUROPE

6:00 The News with Brian Williams
7:00 Europe Today
10:00 European Money Wheel
13:00 Internight
14:00 Time and Again
15:00 Europe à la Carte
15:30 VIP
16:00 The Today Show
17:00 Spencer Christian's Wine Cellar
17:30 Dream House
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 Flavors of France
19:30 VIP
20:00 Europe Tonight
20:30 The Ticket
21:00 Dateline
22:00 NBC Supersports
22:30 Gillette World Sports Special
23:00 Tonight Show
00:00 Conan O'Brien
1:00 The Ticket
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show (rpt)
3:00 Internight
4:00 VIP (rpt)
4:30 Hello Austria, Hello Vienna
5:00 The Ticket
5:30 Wines of Italy (rpt)

■ STAR PLUS

6:00 Hindi programs
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 Fawlty Towers
8:30 The X-Files
9:30 Santa Barbara
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
11:00 Hindi programs
12:30 Election Special
14:00 Hindi programs
17:30 Star News
18:00 Mind Your Language
18:30 Murder, She Wrote
19:30 A Question of Answers
20:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:30 Star News (rpt)
21:00 Newhart
21:30 Baywatch
22:30 Charlie's Angels
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Oprah Winfrey
1:30 21 Jump Street
2:30 Hindi programs
3:30 Good Morning India
5:30 Hindi programs

■ BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:30 Window on Europe
7:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
8:00 The World Today
9:30 Top Gear (rpt)
10:30 Window on Europe (rpt)
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 Earth Report: Saving the Sea (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World
15:00 World News & Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 The Travel Show
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Correspondent
19:30 Film '98 (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:00 Reporters
23:30 A Golfer's Travels: South Africa
00:30 Europe Direct
1:00 World News and Business Report
2:05 USA Direct
2:30 Film '98 (rpt)
3:00 World News and Business Report

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL

News through the day
6:15 American Edition
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:00 Larry King (rpt)
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 World Report: As They See It
14:30 Digital Jam
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:30 CNN Newsroom
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Showbiz Today
19:00 Larry King Live
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A
23:00 News Europe
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline
3:15 Asian Edition
3:30 Q&A (rpt)
4:00 Larry King Live
5:00 News Americas
5:30 Showbiz Todayn

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Women's FILA League Basketball – Elitzur Ramle vs Elitzur Holon
18:00 English League and Cup Soccer
19:30 The Strongest Man in the World
20:00 International Journal
21:00 College Basketball
22:30 South American Soccer
23:30 Absolute Fighting

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

9:30 Nordic Skiing – World Cup from Finland
11:00 Cart
12:00 Athletics – from Germany
13:00 Eurogoals
14:30 Snowboard – from France
15:00 Freestyle Skiing – World Cup from Sweden, live
16:00 Tennis – Mercedes Tournament
17:30 Whitbread Round the World Race
18:00 Biathlon
19:00 Eurogoals
20:30 4-Wheel Drive Racing
21:00 Boxing – Heavyweight Championship from Dortmund
22:00 Tennis – Mercedes Tournament, live
1:30 Soccer Legends – Holland

■ STAR SPORTS (16/15) (unconfirmed)

6:30 Thai Boxing
7:30 Soccer – Asian Club Championship
9:30 Cricket – Test Match from S. Africa
12:30 Soccer – Gillette World Cup
13:00 Cricket – Test Match from S. Africa
17:35 Whitbread Round-the-World Race
18:00 Watersports
19:00 Soccer – World Cup Golden Boots
19:30 Equestrianism
20:30 Golf
21:00 Sport In Action
21:30 Asian Sports
22:00 Golf – Nissan Tournament
23:30 Whitbread Round-the-World Race
00:00 Motorsports
1:00 Thai Boxing
2:00 Asian Sports

RADIO

6:05 Mozart: Divertimento for Winds K213 (Vienna); Handel: Organ Concerto no 11 (Chorzempa/Concerto Amsterdam/Schroeder); Quantz: Sonata for Flute and Continuo (B.Kuijken/W.Kuijken/Van Asperen); Boccherini: Minuet (Malsky/Hovora); Beethoven: Six Variations op 34 (Lortie)7:07 Baroque music; Weber: Piano Concerto no 2 (Oppitz/Bavarian RSO/Davis); Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis (New Queen's Hall Orch/Wordsworth) 8:05 Tchaikovsky: Barcarole of the month of June from the Seasons (Kubelik); Mussorgsky: Aria from Khovanshchina (Kocharga/Berlin PO/Abbado); Tchaikovsky: Orchestra Suite no 3 (New Philharmonia/Dorati) 9:05 Rosenmuller: Vespro della Beata Vergine (Concerto Palatino/Cantis Cologne/Junghanel); Bach: Suite no 6 for solo Cello; Mozart: Piano Concerto no 15 K450 (Levin/Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood); Beethoven: Sonata no 9 for Piano and Violin "Kreutzer" (van Immerseel/Schroeder); Mahler: 5 songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn (DeGaetani/Eastman Chamber Ens/Effron) 12:00 Light Classical 13:00 The Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet – Hindemith: Little Chamber Music op 24 no 2; Henze: Wind Quintet; Henze: Autumn for Wind Quintet 14:06 Folk Music 15:00 From the Recording Studio – Orit Orbach, clarinet/Gilad Hildesheim, violin/Michael Haran, cello/Eitan Globerson, piano. Debussy: Sonata for Cello and Piano; Messiaen: Quatuor pour la Fin du Temps 16:00 My Concerto 18:00 New CDs – selected Baroque and Classical works 20:05 Bach: Suite no 2 for solo Cello (Suzuki); Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 3 (Perahia/Concertgebouw Orch/Haitink); Brahms: Symphony no 1 (Vienna PO/Bernstein) 23:00 A Musical Journey

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	Simpsons Filmed on the Street News		Beverly Hills 90210		Family Matters Married with Children The Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Belief and Disbelief
20:00		News			Helen and the Boys Sweet Valley High	
20:30	Mein Host Meni Pe'er	Candid Camera	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Beverly Hills 90210	The Halfback of Notre Dame		Ultrascience
21:00						Eight on Eight with Yael Dan
21:30	Weekly Lotto Draw GoldenEye	Dan Shilon Live	Suddenly Susan Yair Lapid Live at 10	Wayne's World	Beverly Hills 90210 The Last Time I Saw Paris	Cloning Revolution
22:00			Seinfeld			
22:30			Ricki Lake			Human/ Nature
23:00						

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE Murder at 1600 5, 9:30 • Mr. Baum 7:30 • Giro di Lune Terra e Mare 9:30 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Twice Bouskilla⇒Edge of the Horizon 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Kiss the Girls 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Jackal⇒Tomorrow Never Dies 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Amistad 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Devil's Advocate 4:30, 7:15, 10 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** Decon-structing Harry 9:30 • The Island of Bird Street 7, 9:30, **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot As Good As It Gets 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • Good Will Hunting 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Seven Years in Tibet 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Wag the Dog 5, 7:30, 9:45 • I Know What You Did Last Summer 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 Twice Bouskilla 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The Rainmaker 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 Ice Storm 2, 6, 10 • Mrs Dalloway 4, 8
TEL AVIV
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College Basketball's Top 25 Final Poll

1. North Carolina
2. Kansas
3. Duke
4. Arizona
5. Kentucky
6. Connecticut
7. Utah
8. Princeton
9. Cincinnati
10. Stanford
11. Purdue
12. Michigan
13. Mississippi
14. South Carolina
15. Texas Christian
16. Michigan State
17. UCLA
18. New Mexico
19. Arkansas
20. Maryland
21. Illinois
22. Syracuse
23. Xavier
24. Temple
25. Murray State

'March Madness' seeds set

NEW YORK (AP) – Since the NCAA started seeding teams for its tournament in 1979, the top four teams have never made it as a group to the Final Four.

Expect that to continue for at least one more year. Despite the fact North Carolina, Duke, Kansas and Arizona have been considered the four best teams in the country since the end of January, March has always been cruel to at least one No. 1 seed.

The hard part is trying to figure out which ones will go down before the Final Four in San Antonio.

EAST

While most eyes in the East will be on North Carolina as it plays in the NCAA tournament under a coach other than Dean Smith for the first time since 1959, the first-round pressure will be on Indiana. It tries to break a three-year streak of losing its first game.

North Carolina will sink Navy and North Carolina Charlotte will ruin Illinois-Chicago's debut to set up a second-round meeting between the in-state schools.

Princeton and its Ivy League image will get by UNLV, which had to travel from The Strip, and Michigan State will prevail over its neighbor Eastern Michigan and lightning-quick guard Earl Boykins.

Xavier should continue its run after winning the Atlantic 10 tournament, even though it might have problems with Washington's size. South Carolina won't fall into the trap of taking Richmond lightly.

Oklahoma will keep Indiana's streak intact by picking up the game's tempo and Connecticut shouldn't have a problem with Fairleigh Dickinson.

In the regional semifinals, North Carolina will beat Princeton for the second time this season, while Connecticut's defense gets the team a big win over Xavier.

That leaves North Carolina against Connecticut whose pressure defense finally takes its toll on and eliminates a No. 1 seed.

WEST

Arizona comes in on a six-game NCAA tournament winning streak, as do all defending champions. There won't be much of a problem making it seven over Nicholls State and then eight over Illinois State, which advanced with a win over Tennessee in a matchup of former Roy Williams assistant coaches.

Illinois and Maryland are two solid clubs that should advance to the second round easily.

Nebraska and point guard Tyronn Lue will keep Arkansas' recent slump going. Utah shouldn't have much of a problem with San Francisco and neither should Cincinnati with Northern Arizona.

Temple and its tough matchup zone will prevail over West Virginia in a matchup of former conference foes.

Arizona should handle Maryland in the regional semifinals, while Cincinnati wears down Utah. Cincinnati will find a way to beat Arizona .

MIDWEST

Kansas gets the easiest of the first-round matchups with the tournament's only sub-.500 team, Prairie View. Murray State will upset Rhode Island as Mark Gottfried gets the better of his former boss at UCLA, Jim Harrick.

Texas Christian will keep the points coming as it beats Florida State, and Mississippi could even put up a higher number against Valparaiso. Clemson has righted things of late and should send Western Michigan packing, while Stanford won't become another first-round victim of College of Charleston.

Detroit comes up big in Chicago against St. John's and Purdue should roll against Delaware.

In the regional semifinals, Kansas beats Mississippi, while Stanford knocks off Purdue.

SOUTH

Duke will end Radford's first appearance in its first game and George Washington will surely beat Oklahoma State, only to lose to the Blue Devils in its next game.

Syracuse and its 2-3 zone will prevail over fellow New York state school Iona and New Mexico will beat Butler. UCLA will get to meet Michigan after both win their openers and Massachusetts and Kentucky will set up a rematch of their '96 Final Four meeting.

Duke will beat Syracuse in the regional semifinals and Kentucky will knock out Michigan. That sets up a rematch of Duke and Kentucky, who last met in 1992 when the Blue Devils won one of the best tournament games ever, 104-103 in overtime on Christian Laettner's turnaround shot at the buzzer. This time Kentucky gets revenge and eliminates another No. 1 seed.

That's four No. 1s out before the Final Four.

NCAA tournament (round 1)

EAST REGIONAL
Thursday, March 12
At The Hartford Civic Center
North Carolina (30-3) vs. Navy (19-10)
North Carolina Charlotte (19-10) vs. Illinois-Chicago (22-5)
Michigan State (20-7) vs. Eastern Michigan (20-9)
Princeton (26-1) vs. UNLV (20-12)
At The MCI Center, Washington, DC
Connecticut (29-4) vs. Fairleigh Dickinson (23-6)
Indiana (19-11) vs. Oklahoma (22-10)
South Carolina (23-7) vs. Richmond (22-7)
Xavier (22-7) vs. Washington (18-9)

SOUTH REGIONAL
Friday, March 13
At Rupp Arena, Lexington, Kentucky
Duke (29-3) vs. Radford (20-9)
Oklahoma State (21-8) vs. George Washington (24-8)
New Mexico (23-7) vs. Butler (22-10)
Syracuse (24-8) vs. Iona (27-5)
At The Georgia Dome, Atlanta
Kentucky (29-4) vs. South Carolina State (22-7)
Massachusetts (21-10) vs. Saint Louis (21-10)
Michigan (24-8) vs. Davidson (20-9)
UCLA (22-8) vs. Miami (18-9)

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Friday, March 13
At The Myriad, Oklahoma City
Kansas (34-3) vs. Prairie View (13-18)
Rhode Island (22-8) vs. Murray State (29-3)
Mississippi (22-6) vs. Valparaiso (21-8)
Texas Christian (27-5) vs. Florida State (17-13)
At The United Center, Chicago
Purdue (25-7) vs. Delaware (20-9)
St. John's (22-9) vs. Detroit (24-5)
Stanford (26-4) vs. College of Charleston (24-5)
Clemson (18-13) vs. W. Michigan (20-7)

WEST REGIONAL
Thursday, March 12
At Arco Arena, Sacramento
Arizona (27-4) vs. Nicholls State (19-9)
Tennessee (20-8) vs. Illinois State (24-5)
Maryland (19-10) vs. Utah State (25-7)
Illinois (22-9) vs. South Alabama (21-8)
At BSU Pavilion, Boise, Idaho
Cincinnati (26-5) vs. Northern Arizona (21-7)
Temple (21-8) vs. West Virginia (22-8)
Utah (25-3) vs. San Francisco (19-10)
Arkansas (23-8) vs. Nebraska (20-11)



Next Year, St. Paul

NFL star Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers at the Western Wall yesterday. White announced that, due to this year's successful tour of Israel in the footsteps of Jesus, next year he and his entourage will follow the footsteps of St. Paul to Patmos and Ephesus in Greece. (Isaac Harari)

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Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Nitschke dead at 61

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Nitschke, whose fierce play epitomized the champion Green Bay Packers of the Vince Lombardi era, died Sunday of a heart attack at age 61.

Nitschke was driving with his daughter and 17-month-old granddaughter near his winter home in Naples, Fla., when he fell ill. He was pronounced dead at Venice Hospital.

Nitschke, a third-round draft pick of Green Bay out of Illinois, played for the Packers from 1958 to 1972 and was the defensive anchor on the Lombardi teams that won five NFL titles, including the first two Super Bowls. He was a member of the NFL's 75th anniversary all-time team.

Nitschke and Dick Butkus were the standard for the punishing middle linebacker of the '60s and '70s.

"He was one of the great players, not only in Packer history, but in NFL history," Packers spokesman Lee Remmel said.

In a recent poll, he was voted the fourth-best player in the team's history, behind receiver Don Hutson, current quarterback Brett Favre, and Bart Starr, the quarterback on Lombardi's teams.

"Ray was personable, outgoing and a great friend of so many of us in pro football," NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said. "He made the transition from an intense middle linebacker during his Packer Hall of Fame playing days to an entertaining goodwill football ambassador during more recent years.

Nitschke, who made his home in Green Bay after his retirement, was often at Packers practices and traveled to road games. He was a man whose friendly demeanor was in stark contrast to his fierce on-field persona, chatting with whomever approached him.

On the field, Nitschke was a destroyer.

"He was a thunderous tackler," Remmel said. "He didn't know the meaning of taking it easy on the football field. He did that every play of his career.

"He was intense about his profession, about as intense as any performer in the history of the game. He was a very devoted father to his three children off the field." And an unforgettable teammate.

"He was THE man," teammate Willie Wood said. "He was a guy who played with a lot of great tenacity. Every time you saw him you knew he was ready to play."

But Nitschke also had something else. "He had that ability to make people like him, and for that I would never forget him," Wood said.

The death was the second in the past month involving a former member of the Packers' championship teams of the 1960s. Former defensive end Lionel Aldridge was found dead of natural causes in his suburban Milwaukee apartment Feb. 12, two days before his 57th birthday.

Nitschke's wife, Jackie, died of cancer in 1996. Other surviving children include his sons John and Richard. The Packers said Nitschke would be buried in Green Bay.

Adams strikes to send Pakistan towards defeat

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuters) – Pakistan survived into a fifth day in the third Test against South Africa at St. George's Park yesterday but were destined for defeat after closing on 120 for seven after being set an unlikely 394 for victory.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams hastened Pakistan's decline with three wickets as the pitch, conducive to seam bowling on the first two days, began to take spin.

Fanie de Villiers, who took six wickets in Pakistan's first innings, made the initial breakthrough, trapping Ijaz Ahmed (15) so palpably lbw that the batsman took two steps towards the pavilion before umpire Steve Dunne raised his finger.

Adams claimed the vital wicket of Inzamam-ul-Haq (4) with a fine googly that drew the batsman from the crease and allowed wicketkeeper Mark Boucher to complete a sharp stumping.

Allan Donald struck twice in two overs by trapping Moin Khan lbw for one with a slower ball and then delivered a major blow when he had opener Saeed Anwar caught at slip for 55 off a flashing drive.

It was Anwar's only loose shot in his 109-ball innings but it left Pakistan on 75 for four and probably spelled the end of their slim hopes of saving the match.

Victory for South Africa would level the three-match series 1-1.

Australia-India

Sachin Tendulkar struck an impressive unbeaten 155 yesterday as India eyed victory on the fourth day of the first Test.

Tendulkar blasted 155 with 14 fours and four sixes in a knock that punished Australian legspinner Shane Warne before India declared in their second innings at 418 for four.

After setting Australia 348 runs to win, India had removed the Australians' top three batsmen for just 31 at close of play.

Australia were all out for 328 in the first innings in reply to India's total of 257. India declared an hour before close and then attacked the tourists.

Michael Slater was the first to go, dragging a widish ball from paceman Javagal Srinath on to his stumps for 13.

Greg Blewett was dismissed for five off legspinner Anil Kumble's first ball, caught off the glove at silly-point by Rahul Dravid as he stretched forward defensively.

Mark Taylor, after two fours in a confident 13, fell on the fourth ball of the incomplete final over of the day, edging Kumble to a diving Srinath at slip in a failed pull.